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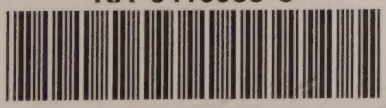

WORCESTERSHIRE PLACE NAMES

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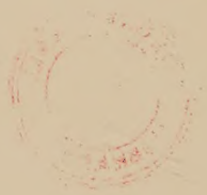

WORCESTERSHIRE PLACE NAMES

BY

W. H. DUIGNAN

WALSALL

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PREFACE

In adopting the title 'Worcestershire Place Names' I refer only to those names which have a 'history.' I include hamlets and farms which appear to be ancient. Even fields could tell interesting stories; but their original names have generally been abandoned, or are so buried in the corruption of generations of tenants that, without access to the owners' deeds, it is rarely possible to construe them. Small places are frequently found to be of great antiquity, and many a name recorded in Domesday Book is concealed under its modern title.

After the publication of my 'Staffordshire Place Names' (1902) I was attracted to Worcestershire by the very large number of Anglo-Saxon charters preserved in the archives of the bishops of Worcester and the great monasteries of the county. The publications also of the Worcestershire Historical Society were another attraction, as they supplied much material.

Charters are of varying value; originals may be trusted; but the far greater number have only come down to us in post-conquest copies frequently made by a scribe imperfectly acquainted with Anglo-Saxon, and with a natural tendency to spell a name he recognized as it was written or pronounced in his day. Domesday Book is invaluable, but it is mainly

the work of Norman clerks upon the evidence of Anglo-Saxon records or witnesses, and is consequently impregnated with Norman French; a twelfth-century record is generally more reliable.

Nearly all English place-names have their root in Anglo-Saxon; the principal exceptions are rivers and hills, which frequently maintain their earlier names (especially large rivers), and then their construction is almost hopeless. On the west side of Severn a few names appear to be of Welsh origin (e. g. Malvern, Mathon, Pendock, Pensax, &c.), and should therefore be dealt with by a Welsh scholar.

Before commencing my work I was of opinion that the Norsemen had left no permanent traces of their invasions in Worcestershire; but I now think it pretty clear they made a settlement in the neighbourhood of Clent and Hagley, probably on one of their raids up Severn. The same thing happened in North Staffordshire, where several place-names and words are clearly of Danish origin.

The Anglo-Saxons appear to have been a homely race, for their place-names have the simplest origins, very different to the Welsh, Irish, and Scotch, whose names largely savour of poetry, sentiment, and history.

The reader will not fail to notice the very large number of place-names which have their root in Anglo-Saxon personal names. All personal names, in their inception, had meaning, and were Christian names only, family names being extremely rare before the thirteenth century. They had never more than two stems, and were masculine and feminine as with us. The prefix was common to both, but the suffix was strictly masculine or feminine. The meaning of the

stems, apart, is generally plain, but the combination is frequently untranslatable, as certain stems were common to a family, and one would be after a father, another after a mother or other relation. Then nicknames, short and pet names, were common, and in the course of ages the spelling greatly varied, having a tendency to shorten. It is, therefore, sometimes extremely difficult to ascertain the exact personal name, and one has to be guided by recorded forms, frequently meagre or conflicting. A modern popular *pronunciation* is often of great assistance; the uneducated have been the preservers of Old English, the educated its main corrupters. They knew Greek and Latin, but until fifty or sixty years ago Old English was a despised and neglected branch of learning. For this reason the etymologies of old writers have little value, and few of them had reliable materials to work upon. The opinion of county, and even national, historians before, say, 1840 are entitled to little respect.

The Church, before the Dissolution, owned a large portion of the county (the bishop alone about a third of it), and appear to have been just and beneficent landlords. Their tenants were evidently better off than those of the laity, and their manors were more populous. The bishop in his manors, in addition to his ecclesiastical jurisdiction, had great powers in civil and criminal matters, and appears to have ruled with a kindly hand. The ideal government is government by the wise and good, and government by the clergy was government by the wisest and best men the age produced. They softened the rigours of feudal law; they gave sanctuary to the politically

persecuted, and even to the criminal; were enemies to all tyranny and injustice, and opposed to serfdom.

A name compounded of two languages is exceptional, and requires cautious acceptance; but such combinations exist where a country has been occupied by successive races. The Romans adopted native names, clothing them in Latin garb, or adding native terminals. The Anglo-Saxons unquestionably fraternized, more or less, with the people they dominated or displaced, and naturally adopted many of their names or stems. Norman-French had enormous influence on Old English, and the changes which took place in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries must also, to some extent, have had their parallel in Saxon days.

Though it is sometimes impossible to arrive at the meaning of a place-name, yet a collection of its earliest forms frequently enables us to correct false constructions which have passed current, perhaps for centuries, and led to false history. To learn that the meaning is *not* what we have been taught is a step toward truth.

The charters contain numerous references to tumuli, or burial-mounds (A. S. *hlæw*, v. Low). They were commonly adopted, like streams, hoar-stones, or notable trees, as territorial boundaries. They are frequently termed 'heathen burial-places'—a pregnant name—for it has been assumed, I think on insufficient grounds, that many of these mounds were 'constructed' by the Anglo-Saxons. I believe they are entirely the work of an earlier and heathen race. It is most improbable that an A.-S. scribe would apply the term 'heathen' to his own race, however applicable

it might have been at some remote period. He is evidently referring to an earlier and extinct race, 'heathen' as compared to his Christianity. We do not know when Christianity was first introduced here, but we do know that it is recognized in our very earliest records as the common faith of the people of the midland and southern parts of England. It is possible that, for a short period, isolated families of the Saxons should have remained pagan, or adhered to old customs, and consequently may have used (not constructed) these mounds as burial-places; but the practice would have been totally opposed to Christian doctrine. The Romans buried their dead as we do, and I treat all tumuli as pre-Roman and pre-historic, confining myself to the southern half of England; for in the north Scandinavian influence was great, and has to be taken into account.

The inhabitants were probably not much troubled by wolves, but the charters occasionally refer to them. Wolf-pits (*seathe*) are mentioned as existing in Bredicote and Broadwas, and a wolf *hagan* in Longdon. Domesday Book records also a *haia* in Kington, 'in which wild animals were captured.' As late as 1167 the sheriff pays three shillings to a hunter for destroying wolves in Feckenham Forest. The price seems very moderate; but in 1233 the sheriff of Shropshire paid only fifty-seven shillings to Richard of Myndtown for the heads of fifty-seven Welshmen whom he caught marauding at Church Stretton—and Richard appears to have been content.

The recent Ordnance Surveys, 1 in., 6 in., and 25 in., are inferior to the original survey, and appear to have been made by a lower class of surveyors. Old names

are altered without reason, and ancient sites and monuments unnoticed, whilst the 6 in. maps are disfigured with innumerable and useless notices of 'Old Clay-pit'—*marleria,* as they are called in old deeds—pits from which marl had been taken to manure the land in times when farmyard manure was scarce, and artificial manure unknown. Many moated farmsteads, which must have had ancient names, are only marked 'Moat,' and cannot therefore be identified.

The reader will find it necessary to make himself acquainted with the contractions, which follow the Preface.

I have to express my thanks to Mr. W. H. Stevenson, M.A., Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, for great assistance; to the Rev. W. W. Skeat, Professor of Anglo-Saxon and Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, for invaluable information afforded through his numerous works, and by ready and kind correspondence; and to the Editors of the publications of the Worcestershire Historical Society, which have been the main supply of Middle-English forms.

W. H. DUIGNAN.

WALSALL:
December, 1904.

PRINCIPAL CONTRACTIONS

A. F., Anglo-French.
A. S., Anglo-Saxon = Old English, Anglo-Saxons.
Bosworth-Toller, Bosworth-Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary.
c., century.
C. D., Kemble's Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici.
Cp., compare.
C. S., Birch's Chartularium Saxonicum.
D., Domesday Book.
dat., dative.
E. D. D., Wright's English Dialect Dictionary.
E. P. N., Dictionary of English Plant Names, Britten and Holland.
f., farm.
G., Gaelic.
gen., genitive.
h., hamlet.
Hab., Habington's Survey of Worcestershire (Worcestershire Historical Society, 1895).
H. E. D., Historical, or New, English Dictionary.
Hem., Hemingi Chartularii Ecclesiae Wigorniensis.
I., Irish.
I. P. M., Inquisitiones Post Mortem.
L., Latin.
Lyt. Ch., Charters of the Lyttelton Family at Hagley (Jeayes).
m., miles.
M. E., Middle-English.
Nash, Nash's History of Worcestershire, 1799.
N. F., Norman-French.
obs., obsolete.
O. F., Old French.
O. M., Ordnance Map.
p. n., personal name.
pl. n., place-name.
S. R., Subsidy Rolls.
Th. Ch., Thorpe's Diplomatarium Anglicum Aevi Saxonici.

WORCESTERSHIRE
PLACE NAMES

Abberley, 6 m. W. of Stourport. D. *Edboldlege*; 12 c. *Albodesleye, Alboldesleye*; 1275 *Albedeleye.* A. S. p. n. *Eadbeald, Eadbald*—Eadbald's lea. *V.* Ley.

Abberton, 6 m. NE. of Pershore. 969 *Eadbrihtincgtune,* C. S. 1242. D. *Edbritone*; 1275 *Edbriston,* S. R.; 1538 *Aburton.* A. S. p. n. *Eadbeorht, Eadbriht-ing-tun*=the town of the descendants of Eadbriht. *V.* Ing and Ton. The *ing* appears to have dropped out by D. Abberton in Essex (D. *Eadburghetun*) is Eadburg's town.

Abbots Lench, *v.* Lench (Abbots).

Abbots Morton, 5 m. SW. of Alcester. 708 *Mortun,* C. S. 176; 714 *Mortun,* C. S. 130; D. *Mortune*; 1275 *Morton*; it subsequently acquired the name of Abbots because it belonged to the Abbey of Evesham for over eight hundred years. The root is A. S. *Mōrtūn,* Moor town (*v.* Moor and Ton). The name is very common, D. recording over fifty examples.

Abbots Wood, Abbots Wood Farm, in Kempsey. There was a monastery in Kempsey, founded in 799 (C. S. 295), which, within fifty years, was absorbed by the Bishops of Worcester, who afterwards had a palace and park here. These lands probably belonged to the Abbots and See. *V.* Kempsey.

Acton, h., 3 m. N. of Ombersley. 1275 *Actone,* S. R. A. S. *Actūn,* Oak town (*v.* Ton). The A. S. long *ā* usually

developed into *oa*, but before two consonants (not including *h*, *v*, or *l* in all cases) it became *ă*; *v.* Skeat's Primer of English Etymology, Clarendon Press, p. 25.

Acton Beauchamp, 4 m. SE. of Bromyard. 718 *Aactune*, C. S. 146; 969 *Actune*, C. S. 1242; 972 *Actune*, C. S. 1281; D. *Actune*. The Beauchamps were its early Norman lords. Where names were common it became customary, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, to add the family name of manorial lords for the purpose of identity.

Aggberrow Wood, in Bushley. 1275 *Acberge* (2), S. R. A. S. (*æt*) *āc beorg*—Oak hill.

Aggborough, h., 1 m. S. of Kidderminster. 1275 *Akberewe*, *Agberrow*, S. R.; 1340 *Agberwe*. A. S. (*æt*) *āc beorg*—Oak hill.

Alcott Farm, in Alvechurch. 1275 *Alecote*, S. R. *s.* Alvechurch. The terminal is plainly A. S. *cot*, *cote*, cottage; the prefix probably represents a p. n., but is too fragmentary to deal with.

Alderminster, 4 m. SE. of Stratford-on-Avon. D. *Sture*; 1275 *Aldremoneston*, *Aldremeston*, S. R. Alderminster lies on the river Stour, and its present name is apparently post-D. I have no doubt that the forms should be read *Ealdormannestun*, Alderman's town (*v.* Ton). *Ealdorman* means a person of high rank. D. says: 'There (in Sture) one Knight holds two hides and two radmans' (a remarkable entry). The residence of this Knight probably led to the change of name. Aldermaston, in Berkshire, appears in D. as *Ældermanestone*, which confirms the construction.

Aldington, h., in Badsey (2 m. E. of). 709 *Aldintone*, C. S. 183; 9 c. *Aldantune*, C. S. 364; D. *Aldintone*; 1275 *Aldington*, S. R. The prefix probably represents the A. S. p. n. *Ealda* (frequently written *Alda*), the gen. form of which would be *Aldan*, as in the second form. These gen. terminals frequently become *ing* (q. v.). This is therefore Ealda's town (*v.* Ton). *Eald* (old) forms the prefix to a large number of

A. S. p. n., and, as our forefathers used short or pet names as freely as we do now, many places owe their nomenclature to abbreviated or familiar forms, so that the name here may have been Ealdhun, Ealdred, Ealdfrith, &c. Aldington in Kent was *Eadulfingtune* (rightly *Ealdwulfingtune*), Ealdwulf's town, in 996 (C. D. 716), yet is recorded in D. as *Aldintone*.

Alfric, h., in Suckley, 8 m. W. of Worcester. Nash says, 'anciently *Alferwyke*, and *Alfredeswic*.' Accepting those forms, the meaning of the name is Ælfred's village (*v.* Wich); the *-ic* represents an original *-wic*.

Allsborough Hill, ½ m. W. of Pershore. 709 *Ellesbeorh*, C. D. 1368; 709 *Hallesborge*, C. S. 125; c. 1610 *Aylesborough*, *Alesborough*, Hab. ii. 247. The terminal is A. S. *beorh*, dat. *beorge*, a hill, which frequently becomes 'borough' (*v.* Bury). Professor Skeat writes: 'The charter of 709 is spurious, with mere late Norman forms. I think the forms *Elles-* and *Halles-* are both right in their way, being A. F. forms of A. S. *Ælles*, gen. of Ælli=Ælli's hill.'

Alretune, D.; 1023 *Ealretune*, C. D. 738. This is a D. manor in Doddingtree Hundred, held by Gislebert fitz Turold, which I have been unable to identify. The name is probably obsolete; or, if preserved, its modern form I should expect to be Allerton, from A. S. *aler*, alder, and *ton*.

Alston, h., in Little Washbourn, 6 m. E. of Tewkesbury. 1050 *Ælfsigestun*, C. D. 805; 1275 *Alsostone*, *Alstone*, S. R. This h. belonged to the monastery of Bredon, and was appurtenant to that manor. This is an illustration of the tendency to shorten. 'The popular pronunciation of *Ælfsigestūn* would be Al'syston (*g=y*); the *f* was not sounded between *l* and *s*, as a rule; when three consonants come together the middle one goes; no one pronounces the *t* in *castle*.' (Skeat.) Alvestone, near Stratford-on-Avon, was also *Ælfsigestun* (C. S. 1233); but Alstone, in Staffordshire, was *Ælfweardestun*; Alstone, in Gloucestershire, is recorded in D. as *Aluredestone*,

Alfred's town, and Alston (Sutton) in Somersetshire appears as *Alnodestune*, Alnod's town (*Alnod* being the L. form of *Ælfnoth*). Hence there is no etymology without history, and modern forms alone yield poor material for construction.

Alton, h., in Rock. D. *Alvintune*; c. 1108 *Alcrintone*; 1275 *Alvynton*, S. R. I think the D. form the most reliable, and it is supported by the third. The *cr* in the second form cannot be reconciled with the *vi* and *vy* of the others, and is perhaps a mistake of the scribe, or transcriber. The A. S. having no *v* that letter must be read *f*. I think *Alvin-*, *Alvyn-* represents the A. S. p. n. *Ælfwine*, which frequently appears as *Alwin*, *Alwine*, and would easily pass into *Alvin*. I construe Alton as Alwin's (earlier Ælfwine's) town; *v.* Ton.

Alve, r., tributary of the Arrow (Cassell's Gazetteer, *s.* Arrow), passes by Alvechurch. Rivers sometimes give names to places on their course, and sometimes derive them. Here the name has taken the corrupt modern form (*v.* Alvechurch), omitting the terminal. The Penk river, in Staffordshire, similarly takes its name from Penkridge. I have met with no evidence of the antiquity of this name, and suspect it to be a modern invention.

Alvechurch, 4 m. NE. of Bromsgrove. 780 *Ælfgythe cyrce*; D. *Alvievecharche*; 1108 *Ælfithe cyrce*; 12 c. *Alviethechurch*; 1323 *Alveythchurch*. *Ælfgyth* was a fem. A. S. p. n., and *cyrce* is our modern 'church,' so pronounced. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence; perhaps *Ælfgyth* founded it. The *g* in her name was sounded like *y*, and merged with the following vowel according to rule. The modern pronunciation is 'Allchurch.'

Ankardine Hill, in Knightwick, 6 m. W. of Bromyard. 1275 *Oncredham*, S. R.; 1327 *Oncredam*, S. R.; 13 and 14 c. (frequently) *Ancredam*, *Ancredham*; 1645 *Ankerden*. I think the prefix is A. S. *ancra*, *ancer*, M. E. *ancre*, *oncre*,

a hermit, anchorite (male or female). It is a likely place for a hermitage, but there is no record of one. The *d* in most of the forms is puzzling. Without it we might construe the name 'the hermit's home' (*v.* Ham). Professor Skeat suggests an original *Ancran-denu*—the hermit's valley (whence *Anker-den* and *Ankardine*), and that *Ancre-dam* was a popular error for *Ancre-den*. It will be observed that 'hill' is a modern addition. There is a great hill here, with deep valleys at foot. The river Anker, in Warwickshire, had three nunneries on its course; Ankerwyke, near Staines, takes its name from a Benedictine nunnery founded there in the 12 c.

Apes Dale, h., in Bromsgrove. 1552 *Apedale*. *Ape* is probably the A. S. p. n. *Apa* mas., *Ape* fem., in which case the original form would be *Apandale*=Ape's dale. *Apa* is A. S. for an ape (monkey is quite a modern word), and it is curious that such an uncomplimentary name should be adopted; but nicknames are ancient and adhesive. With such a late form no 'positive' conclusion can be arrived at.

Apostles Oak, in or near Abberley. One of several oaks under which St. Augustine and the clergy are said to have held a Synod in 603. It is, however, clear that if the account we have of this conference is to be trusted, it took place on the confines of the Hwiccian and West Saxon kingdoms, viz. a little south of Bath.

Arley Kings, 1 m. S. of Stourport. D. *Arleia*; c. 1108 *Arleia*; 12 c. *Ernleie* (Layamon's Poems). Upper Arley, 7 m. N., was in 994 *Earnleie* (Arnley), and that form may be safely accepted here. *Earn* in A. S. means an eagle, but it was also a common p. n. 'The construction here is "Eagle lea"; if *Earn-* represented a p. n. the original form must have been *Earnes-leah*.' (Skeat.) Arley took the name of Kings because in mediaeval times it belonged to the Crown, having twice escheated. The poet Layamon lived and is buried here. His tombstone was discovered on the rebuilding of the church, c. 1880.

Armscott, h., in Tredington, near Shipston-on-Stour. 13 c. *Edmundescote*; 1275 *Edmundescote*, S. R.; 14 c. *Admiscote*; 1327 *Edmundescote*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Eadmund*, and *cot*, a cottage—Eadmund's cot. The change from *Eadmundes-* to Arms- is a strong example, but not to be doubted.

Arrow, r., rises in the Lickey hills, and flows into Avon. There are two rivers 'Arrow' in Ireland, only this one in England, none in Scotland. I do not think the name has any connexion with our word 'Arrow.' I incline to think (the name being found in Ireland) it is a Celtic word, but I can find nothing resembling it in Irish.

Ashborough, h., 1 m. NE. of Bromsgrove. D. *Asseberga*; 1275 *Esseberowe*, S. R.; 1327 *Assheberwe*, S. R. The prefixes represent A. S. *æsc* (ash); M. E. *asch*, *esche*, *esse*, *asse*, an ash (tree). The D. form is here the most reliable, and yields us 'the hill of the ash' (trees), D. frequently recording *asse* for 'ash,' and *berga* being only the latinized form of *beorge*, a hill (*v.* Bury). The D. berewick *Asseberga* has not been hitherto identified, but I am satisfied of its identity with Ashborough.

Ashley (perhaps obsolete). There is a manor of *Escelie* recorded in D. as in Came Hundred, the property of William fitz Ansculf, which has not been identified. Mr. J. H. Round (Hist. of Worcestershire, 315) thinks it may be represented by Selly (q. v.), but that is not possible, though *Escelie* was not far from Kingsnorton. D. makes the following curious note on this manor (translated): 'Wulfwine held it. The same Wulfwine bought this manor from the Bishop of Chester, for three lives. When he was ill, and had come to the end of his life, he called to him his son, Bishop Li (?), his wife, and several of his friends, and said, "Hearken ye, my friends. I desire that my wife hold this land, which I bought from the church, so long as she lives; and after her death let the church from which I received it receive it back;

and let him who takes it from the church be excommunicate. That this was so is testified by the chief men of the whole county."' *Escelie* would become Ashley, and the name may yet linger in some farm or field; but I have met with no record of it since D., nor does it appear on any map.

Ashridge, in Hartlebury (perhaps obsolete). 1275 *Esrugge*, S. R.; 1340 *Assherugg*. The modern form is quite correct. In A. F. *esse* represents 'ash,' and M. E. *rugge*, 'ridge.'

Assarts Common, in Welland (a number of small allotments). *Assart* is an O. F. word adopted into our legal language to describe a new enclosure from the waste or forest. This is the only instance where I have met with it in common parlance, or as a place name. It lies within the limits of Malvern Chase.

Astley, 3½ m. S. of Stourport. D. *Eslei*; 12 c. *Æstlege*; 13 c. *Estley*, *Astle*, *Estele*; 14 c. *Astley*. These forms give us 'Eastley' (*v.* Ley). It appears from the S. R. of 1275 that there was a small monastery here, 'the monks of Estle' being assessed at two and a half marks.

Aston Fields, 1 m. S. of Bromsgrove. 767 *Eastun*, iuxta fluvium qui dicitur Salwarpe, C. S. 202; *Eastun*, C. S. 203; 794 *Austan*, C. S. 269; D. *Estone*; A. S. *East tūn*, East town (*v.* Ton).

Aston Magna, h., in Blockley, 3 m. NW. of Moreton Henmarsh. 1275 *Estone*, S. R.; 1375 *Hanging Aston*. *Eastune* is mentioned in an A. S. charter of 977, C. D. 616, and D. records an *Eston* in Oswaldslow Hundred. Both these places were then the property of the Bishop of Worcester, as this manor also was. There are no means of identifying these records with this Aston, but they probably relate to it. The meaning is clearly 'East town' (*v.* Ton). I have met with only one Aston which could bear any other construction. In that case the original form was *Æsctun*, Ash town. D.

records sixty-four manors under *Estone*, which, as far as I have traced them, are now Aston, or Easton. Sutton, Norton, Weston are similarly South-, North-, West- (town). Its mediaeval name of 'Hanging' Aston probably refers to its situation on a hillside (*v.* Hanger).

Aston (White Ladies), 3½ m. NW. of Pershore. 904 *Eastune*, C. S. 609; D. *Eston*—East town (*v.* Aston Magna). The manor, from remote times, belonged to the church at Worcester. In Henry III's time the bishop granted it to the Benedictine nuns of Whiston, in Claines (called 'White Ladies' from the white habit they wore). They held it till the suppression of the Monasteries (1545).

Astwood, h., in Claines, 1½ m. NE. of Worcester. No forms. Doubtless M. E. *Astwode*—East wood.

Astwood, in Wichbold, 2½ m. NE. of Droitwich. 12 c. *Estwood*; 13 c. *Astwode*; 17 c. *Estwode*=Eastwood (*v.* Astwood Bank, *post*).

Astwood Bank, h., 3 m. S. of Redditch. 1242 *Estwode*. A. S. *East-*, *Est-*, M. E. *Ast-wode* = East wood, probably from its lying on the eastern extremity of Feckenham Forest. It lies also on the Ridgeway, which here forms the boundary between Worcestershire and Warwickshire.

Atchen Hill, 2 m. NW. of Worcester. 963 *Ætinc weg* (3), C. S. 1106, 1107; 970 *Ættinge gærstun*, C. S. 1139. 'The forms represent the recorded p. n. *Ætting* = son of Ætti; *weg*, way, *gærstun*, meadow—Ætting's way, Ætting's meadow. The right form must have been *Ættinga weg* = way of the *sons* of Ætti; if in the singular the gen. *es* would not have been lost.' (Skeat.)

Atch Lench, *v.* Lench (Atch).

Atherstone-super-Stour, 3 m. SE. of Stratford-on-Avon. D. *Edricestone*; 1227 *Aderichestan*, *Adrichestone*. The forms yield the A. S. p. n. *Eadric*, and *stan*, stone—Eadric's stone (*v.* Hoarstone). Atherstone, in Warwickshire (D. *Aderestone*), is Eadred's town; and Atherstone, in Somerset, Æthelheard's

town. Modern forms aid little in construction, but sometimes they help.

Atterburn, r., a tributary of Salwarp, 4 m. N. of Worcester. 1038 *Oter burne*, Earle's Charters, 239. A. S. *oter*, an otter, and *burn*, a brook—the brook of the otter.

Aust Cliff, h., and farms in Wolverley. 1275 *Alstanclive*, *Alstanesclive*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Ealhstan*, and *clif*—Ealhstan's cliff. The word *clif* was frequently applied to mere hills, or rising ground. Close to Aust Cliff is *Clee* Hall, *clee* being the dat. form of *clif*. The O. M. of 1832 marks this 'Horse Cliff,' an example of 'interpretative corruption.'

Austen (probably obsolete), on or near Severn N. of Worcester. 691 *Austin*, C. S. 75; 794 *Austan*, C. S. 269 (grants to the Bishop of Worcester). This place is not mentioned in any existing subsequent record or map. The charter of 691 relates also to Hanbury. *Austen* is not an A. S. word.

Avon, river. There are ten distinct rivers 'Avon' in England, Wales, and Scotland. The name is commonly found in our earliest records as *Afen*, *Afene*, *Afon*, and occasionally *Hafene* and *Abon*. It is not an A. S. word, but Old Celtic *abonā*, W. *afon*, *avon*, I. *abhain*, G. *abhuinn* (*bh* = *v*), and means simply 'river.' In Ireland there are several streams commencing 'Avon-' and *Owen-* (a variant form), with suffixes, e.g. Avonmore, Avonbeg, Owenass, Owenbristy, &c. Mr. Henry Bradley (English Miscellany, 15) says, 'It is certain that all the rivers now called Avon must have had proper names. There is evidence enough to show that the ancient Britons were in the habit of giving individual names to quite insignificant streams.' If all the ten Avons in Britain once had a distinctive suffix, it is remarkable that not one of them should have survived to our time; but Mr. Bradley heads his article 'A bunch of guesses.' He suggests further that the British name of Warwick was *Caer-Wrangon*, and that Wrangon was the name of the Warwickshire and

Worcestershire Avon (there is a river 'Afon-Wrangon' in South Wales, 2 m. SW. of Herwain). Cp. Rea.

Axborough Farm, Axborough Wood, Axborough Lane, in Wolverley. Without forms one can only guess. The terminal is probably a form of Bury or Barrow. Professor Skeat suggests that the prefix represents the p. n. *Æcci*, gen. *Æcces* = Æcces-bury, or barrow (q. v.).

Bach, Batch, a common terminal in Shropshire and Worcestershire, and an occasional prefix. It is A.S. *bæce* (*bach*), M. E. *bache*, 'a bottom,' i. e. a valley, or hollow, with a stream through it. It is not admitted into A. S. dictionaries (though Sweet (1897) gives *bęce* = brook), and, in spite of its obvious meaning as used in the charters, is translated 'beech tree' (also *bæce*). Layamon, who lived at Arley Kings, and wrote his A. S. poems about the year 1200, uses the words *bæch*, *bache*, *bæche*, pl. *bæchen*, in the sense of 'valley.' His editor and translator, Sir Frederick Madden, says, 'It (*bache*) is not inserted in A. S. dictionaries, yet it ought to be.' The Worcestershire S. R. of 1275 and 1327 contain many entries in connexion with personal names, such as — *de la Bache*, — *atte Bach*, — *la Bache*. The H. E. D. is the first authority to recognize the word, and translates it 'the vale of a stream or rivulet.'

Badge Court, f., 5 m. W. of Bromsgrove, 'where an Earl of Shrewsbury resided many years, belonged formerly to the Winters, and is a very large pile of building' (Nash, i. 346). 1275 *Bache*, 1325 *Bachecote*, 1327 *Bachecote* (2), S. R.; 1340 *Bachecot*; 15 c. *Bachecote*. This is A. S. *bæce* (*ce* = *ch*), M. E. *bache*, and A. S. *cot*—the cottage in the valley, or hollow. *V.* Bach.

Badsey, 2 m. E. of Evesham. 709 *Baddeseia*, C. S. 125; 714 *Baddesege*, C. S. 130; 860 *Baddesig*, C. D. 396; D. *Badesei*. Always belonged to the Abbey of Evesham. A. S. p. n. *Badd*, gen. *Baddes*, and *ig*, island—Badd's island. The ancient meaning of island (*igland*) was water-land, not land

entirely surrounded by water. *Badeswelle* is mentioned in the charter of 709.

Baldenhall (probably obsolete), an unrecognized Domesday berewick of Hanley Castle, which, at the time of Domesday, belonged to the Crown, and was within the bounds of Malvern Forest. D. *Baldehale*; 1275 *Baldehale*, S. R.; 1300 *Baddenhale*, 1327 *Baldenhale*, S. R.; 1332 *Badenhale*; 14 c. *Baldenhale*, *Baldonhale*. It would seem to have been situate in or near Madresfield, to have been a 'manor,' and the property of the Abbey of Great Malvern, to whom, *inter alia*, it was given by Henry VII. *Bealda*, later *Balda* (from the adjective *beald*, 'bold'), gen. *Bealdan*, later *Baldon*, was an A. S. p. n., and the meaning is 'the hall of Balda.' The family name 'Balden' doubtless had its origin hence.

Ball Mill, Holt, 7 m. N. of Worcester, on a stream, now called 'Grimley Brook,' but anciently 'Bæle.' 851 *Bæle*, C. S. 462; 962 *Bæle*, C. S. 1086; 1042 *Bæle*, C. D. 765. A. S. *bæl* means a funeral pile, a fireplace, a hearth. It is difficult to apply accurately any of these meanings to a stream, but a furnace on its course might give rise to the name. Iron was certainly smelted at Worcester in Roman or Saxon times.

Banbury Stone, on the summit of Bredon Hill. 778, '*In cuius cacumine urbs est antiquo nomine Bænintesburg*' (on the summit of which is a city of the ancient name of Bænintesburg), C. S. 232. The terminal *bury* is from the dative of A. S. *burg*, later *burh*, a walled town, city, &c. (*v.* Bury). *Bænint*, followed by the gen. *es*, is doubtless a p. n., but I can find nothing like it in A. S.; it may be Celtic. There never could have been a 'town' on the top of Bredon Hill; it must have been a fort, only occupied in time of war or invasion. The entrenchments are plain, though much defaced. The name has passed through some vicissitudes. Within the last two hundred years it has been called

'Bramsbury,' 'Bemsbury,' 'Bunbury,' 'Bambury,' and finally 'Banbury' Stone, the Ordnance Map having adopted the latter name. The popular tendency to change a word, or name, to something commonly understood is very strong. The 'stone' is a natural rock, the result of denudation. It marks the boundary of the counties of Worcester and Gloucester. Professor Skeat adds: '*Bænintes* is a misprint for *Bæninces*, by-form of Bæninges, Bæning, or Baning = son of Bana. The Baningas, or "sons of Bana," are mentioned in the A. S. poem of The Wanderer. *Burh* frequently means "fort".'

Bangham Pit Farm, in Frankley. A family of 'de Byngeham' lived in Frankley, and witnessed deeds in the 14 and 15 c. 'Byngehamslond' is also mentioned in Frankley 15 c. charters (Lyt. Ch.).

Bannutt Tree Farm, in Chaseley, 4 m. W. of Upton-on-Severn; **Bannutt Tree House,** Castle Morton; **Bannutt Hill,** Kempsey; **Bannutt Tree,** 3½ m. NW. of Bewdley. Bannutt is a Midland dialectic word (origin unknown) for the walnut-tree and its fruit. Professor Skeat adds: 'Literally "bone-nut," or nut with bone-like shell. A. S. **bānnut* must become *bănnut*.'

Bant Farm, in Suckley, on the boundary of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. 1806 *The Bante*. This is an old name, but I can make nothing of it.

Barbourn, h., 1 m. N. of Worcester. 904 *Beferburn*, C. S. 608. Nash says, 'takes its name from a brook anciently *Beferburn*, later *Beverbourn*, here running into Severn.' A. S. *befor*, *beofor*, beaver, and *burn*, brook, stream = the beaver stream. It is well settled that beavers formerly inhabited England; but they had been exterminated in Worcestershire long before the Conquest (*v.* Bevere, Beverbourn, and cp. Beverley in Yorkshire).

Bare Moor, now a colliery, 1 m. NE. of Cradley. 1274 *Barefen*, 1275 *Bareffen*, S. R.; c. 1309 *Bereffen*, *Bareffen*, *Baresfen*, Lyt. Ch. A. S. *bærfenn*, bare fen (bare of herbage,

bush, or timber). Fen and moor have little difference in meaning.

Barnard's Green, h., in Great Malvern. 1275 Richard *Bernard* is assessed to the S. R. under Hanley Castle, which then included Malvern. I think it probable that he, or his family, gave name to the locality; *er* in M. E. was pronounced *ar*. Bernard is a late form of the A. S. p. n. *Beornheard*.

Barneshall, h., 1 m. S. of Worcester. 1327 *Neweberne*, S. R.; *Neweberne*, *Bernes*, now *Barnshall*, Nash, ii. 327; belonged to the Priory of Worcester. *Bern* is a M. E. form of 'barn' (A. S. *bærn*), the *er* being pronounced *ar*.

Barnhall, f., 1 m. S. of Ombersley. This I take to be *Bernes ende*, referred to in a charter relating to Hallow, a. 816, C. S. 356. A. S. *bern*, pronounced and meaning 'barn'= the place of the barn (*v.* End). This is a very early instance of the use of the word 'end' in the sense of place, locality. In the S. R. for 1275, *s.* Ombersley, *Bernewelle* is mentioned three times; it is perhaps the root of 'Barn*hall*.'

Barnsley Hall, ancient estate in Bromsgrove. 1275 *Barndeleye*, S. R.; 1327 *Barndele* (2), S. R.; 1332 *Barndeleye*, S. R.; 14 c. *Brandeley*, *Barndesley*. Hab. writes, 'thys seate of auncient gentry.' 'The forms are late; they probably represent an original *Brandes-leah*, the lea of *Brand*, a common A. S. name, and common still.' (Skeat.)

Barnt Green, h., 2 m. NW. of Alvechurch. 17 c. *Barn* and *Barne Green* (3); 1746 *Burnt Green*. I think the evidence is in favour of this being 'Barn Green,' the excrescent *t* being in accord with phonetic changes; otherwise it must be construed 'Burnt Green.' *Barnt* was a M. E. form of 'burnt.'

Barrow, in various forms, is a common terminal; its root is A. S. *beorg*, *beorh*, M. E. *beoruh*, *berghe*, *berwe*, *berewe*, meaning, (*a*) a hill or hillock, (*b*) a burial mound, tumulus, low. Great care is needful to distinguish the forms from A. S. *burh*, M. E. *burgh*, *borowe*, &c. (*v.* Bury).

Barrow, Berrow—Upper Berrow, Lower Berrow, 1½ m. NW. of Feckenham; **Barrow Hill, Berrow Hill,** in Martley; **Barrow Hill,** in Chaddesley Corbett; **Upper Barrow** and **Lower Barrow Farms** in Suckley. 1275 *Barew. Berewe* is the common form for these places in the S. Rolls of 1275 and 1327. *V.* Barrow, *ante.*

Barrow Cop, an eminence in Perdiswell. Prehistoric ornaments have been found here, but no 'barrow' remains. A. S. *copp*, M. E. *cop*, means a head, summit. Barrow Cop means a hill with a tumulus on its summit. *V.* Barrow.

Barton Farm, in Alderminster, is I think the only example of 'Barton' I have met with in Worcestershire. It is very common in the S. of England, and is A. S. *bere-tūn*, a farmstead, rickyard, granary.

Basten Hall, in Suckley. 1275 *Bastenhale*, S. R.; 1327 *Bastenhale*, S. R.; 1332 *Bastendale*, S. R. The terminal may be read 'hall' or 'meadow' (*v.* Hale), but I can make nothing of 'Basten.' Baston in Lincolnshire was *Baston* long before the Conquest, and *Bastwick* in Norfolk was *Bastwic*; it probably represents an unrecorded p. n. *Baston* may represent 'the town of Bassa.'

Bastonford, h., in Powick. 1275 *Berstanesford*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Beornstan*, and *ford* (q. v.)—Beornstan's ford. Cp. Basten Hall, *ante.*

Battenhall, h., 1½ m. SE. of Worcester. 969 *Batanhagan*, *Baten hale*, C. S. 1240; 1275 *Bathenhale*, S. R.; was the park of the Prior of Worcester. *Bata, Bate*, was a p. n., though rare, and I think it must be represented here, the *n* forming the gen. The first terminal *haga* means 'a place fenced in'; *hale* in the other forms I construe 'hall' (*v.* Hale).

Battlefield Farm, Battlefield Brook, 1 m. NW. of Bromsgrove, on the road to Kidderminster. Tradition says there was a small engagement here, about the time of the battle of Worcester.

Baynhall, in Kempsey. 1275 *Beynhale*, S. R.; 1469

Beneshall. Nash, ii. 18, says: 'William de Beauchamp held half a hyde (here commonly called *Beane*, because the whole neighbourhood, at the request of the steward, . . . were obliged to till the ground). This land Bishop Simon (12 c.) gave to Simon, son of William de Beauchamp, whom he baptized.' This is evidently an extract, but Nash omits any reference to its source. There is no apparent connexion between *Beane-* and *Bayn-*. *Baynhall* probably represents an A. S. *Bēagan-hale* (*g*=*y*)—Beaga's meadow land; *Bēaga* = *Bæga*. *V.* Beanhall Mill, *post.*

Baynhall Farm, in Abberton; **Beanhall,** in Newnham, 4 m. NW. of Tenbury; **Beanhall,** 1½ m. NW. of Lindridge; **Beanhall,** in Bayton, 3 m. NE. of Tenbury. No forms, and without them it is impossible to construe these names; but *v.* Baynhall, *ante*, and Beanhall Mill, *post.*

Bayton, 6 m. W. of Bewdley. D. *Betune*; 12 c. *Bertone*; 1275 *Beyton*, S. R.; 1339 *Baynton.* All the forms are corrupt, but I think they represent an original A. S. *Bægantūn*, Bæga's town (*v.* Ton). *Bæga* was a p. n., and the *g* being sounded *y* would produce a later Baynton, and final Bayton; cp. Baywell.

Baywell (fields), **Baywell Wood, Baywell Brook, Upper, Lower,** and **Middle Baywell,** in Daylesford. In 718 Æthelbald, king of the Mercians, grants to the servant of God named Bægia (*g*=*y*) lands at *Dægles'ford* (Daylesford) for the purposes of a monastery there, C. S. 139: *Bæganwellan* (Bæga's spring) is mentioned in the charter; 10 c. *Beagan-byrig*, C. S. 1320; 949 *Beaganwille*, C. D. 882; *Bæganwelle*, C. D. 623; 11 c. *Beiwelle*, Hem. 642. Baywell clearly represents Bæga's well (spring).

Beanhall Mill, 1 m. S. of Feckenham; **Beanhall Farm** (Upper, Middle, and Lower), 1½ m. SW. of Feckenham. 836 *æt felda ten hida on Beansetum* (at (the) field [=open country] ten hides in (or amongst) the Beansete [name of people]), C. S. 416. The prefix here is A. S. *bēan*, 'bean.' *Beansetum* means 'bean-folk, settlers'; probably people living in a

locality which had acquired the name of *Beanheale*—Bean field (*v.* Hale). Cp. Barton-in-the-Beans, Leicestershire.

Beauchamp Court, in Powick. D. *Bello Campo*; 12 c. *Bello Campo.* In L. deeds this name appears in L. garb. The place takes its name from the Beauchamp family, who came over with the Conqueror. D. records Hugh de *Belcamp* as tenant in capite of seventy-five manors. The meaning of the p. n. in L. and O. F. is 'fine field' (*v.* Field).

Bedwardine (St. John's and St. Michael's), Worcester. 1327 *Bedewardyn.* Nash, ii. 308, says, 'because it was allotted to supply the table of the monks of Worcester with provisions.' It is A. S. *bēod-worthyn*, the table farm; *v.* Worth. *Bēod-land* is another term for land so appropriated.

Bellbroughton, 5 m. E. of Kidderminster. 817 *Belne, et Brocton,* C. S. 360; D. *Bellem, Brotune*; 12 c. *Belne, Beolne*; 1275 *Belne-Bruyn, Belne-Simonis, Brocton,* S. R.; 14 c. *Belne-Brocton, Belnebrotton, Brotune, Brotton, Brians Bell, Bellenbrokton. Belne* is not an A. S. word, and I see no reason to think it has any connexion with A. S. *belle*, a bell. It may be Celtic, or a river name, but I can make nothing of it. Broughton is A. S. *brōc-tūn*, brook town. All Broughtons have the same root, the change in form arising from *brōc* being sounded like *loch, lough.* Brian's or Bruyn's Bell, or Belne-Simonis, arises from Simon le Bruyn owning the place, or being the principal inhabitant; he was living there in 1275, S. R.

Bell Hall, in Bellbroughton (q. v.).

Bellington, h., in Chaddesley Corbett. D. *Belintones*, 'Ælfric and Holand held it as two manors; it was and is waste; the woodland is in the king's forest'; 1275 *Belinton*, S. R. The forms, I think, represent an A. S. *Billingatūn*—'the town of the sons, or descendants, of Bill,' a known p. n., as also was Billing.

Bells Farm, in Kingsnorton (1 m. E. of), takes its name from a family of Belne, alias Bell, who possessed the estate

in the 13 c. The Bells came from Bellbroughton (q.v.). The farm was previously called Blackgrove, and belonged to Richard Bares, who, being in prison at Feckenham for theft, escaped and thereby forfeited his lands to the king (Henry III), who thereupon granted them to William, son of Hugh de Belne (Hab. ii. 218).

Beneslei, an unrecognized D. manor, in Came Hundred, held by Urse d'Abitot. *V.* Bentley Pauncefote.

Bengeworth, Evesham. 709 *Benigwrthia*, C. S. 125; 714 *Beningcwrthe, Beningcuurthe*, C. S. 130; 780 *Beningcwyrthe*, 235 C. S.; 907 *Benningcwyrd, Benningcweord, Benningcwyrth*, C. S. 616; 979 *Bynnyngcwyrthe*, C. D. 625; D. *Benningeorde , Bennicworte.* 'The A. S. p. n. *Benning* = *Benna* + *ing*—son of Benna. This is "the farm or estate of Benning," or "son of Benna."' (Skeat.) Cp. Bengeo, in Herts, anciently *Beningeho*, and *v.* Worth.

Bentley, h., 1½ m. W. of Holt. 962 *Beonetlæage*, C. S. 1087; 1017 *Beonetleah*, C. D. 1313; 1042 *Beonetleag*, C. D. 765. The prefix is A. S. *beonet*, M. E. *bent, bennet,* coarse stiff grass, of a reedy or rush-like character. In M. E. 'the bent' is commonly used to describe a tract of country unenclosed and producing mainly coarse grass and heath. The same meaning probably attached to the A. S. form, and to its use in pl. names rather than to mere herbage. There are many Bentleys in England, and all appear to have the same root. For the terminal, *v.* Ley.

Bentley Pauncefote, h., in Tardebigg (3 m. S. of). 1327 *Bentelegh*; 1429 *Bentelegh.* It is said this place is recorded in D. as *Beneslei* (q.v.), but it is a far cry from Beneslei to Bentley, and the change should not be accepted without evidence. For the meaning, *v.* Bentley, *ante.* The Pauncefote family owned the manor in the 13 and 14 centuries.

Beoley, 2 m. NE. of Redditch. 972 *Bēoleahe*, C. S. 1281; D. *Beolege*; 1327 *Beleye*, S. R. A. S. *bēo*, a bee—the Bee lea (*v.* Ley). The production of honey was very

important. The farmers' rents were often partially paid in it; it was in great demand, and dear, being the people's only sugar, and largely used in the production of mead; the wax also was in demand for the lord's house, and for divine service.

Berchelai, an unrecognized D. berewick of the manor of *Escelie* (Ashley), (also unrecognized), in Came Hundred, held by William Fitz Ansculf. It ought now to be Barkley, but may be Birchley. Mr. J. W. Round (Hist. of Worcestershire, i. 315) suggests it is 'Bartley Green,' but I cannot find such a place.

Berrington, h., in Tenbury (2 m. W. of). D. *Beritune*; 1275 *Beriton*, S. R. D. frequently uses *-i-* for *-ing-*, probably an abbreviation. The original form may have been *Bæringatūn*, the town of the descendants of *Bæra*; *v.* Ton.

Berrow, 8 m. W. of Tewkesbury. 12 c. *Berga* (latinized form), *Berewe* (*er*=*ar*). *V.* Barrow.

Berrow, h., in Astley; anciently *Bergha*, *Berrowe*, or *Berough* (Nash, i. 40). *V.* Barrow.

Berrow Hill, in Martley. 1275 Adam de *Berga*, S. R.; 1327 atte *Berewe*, de la *Berewe*, S. R. *V.* Barrow.

Berry, *v.* **Bury.**

Besford, 3 m. SW. of Pershore. 972 *Bettesford*, C. S. 1282; D. *Beford*; 1275 *Besceford*, S. R. This is Betti's ford, i.e. the ford on the way to Betti's house; *v.* Ford.

Bestewde, D. (*wde* = wood), Dodintret Hundred, held by Ralph de Todenei; an unrecognized Domesday manor.

Bettecote is said to have been the ancient manorial name of Stourbridge, but I have seen no evidence to support the statement. It may have been a small post-Domesday manor in Stourbridge. At present the name is confined to a meadow on the E. side of Stourbridge (*v.* Scott's Stourbridge, 33, 34, and Stourbridge, *post*). 1275 *Bettecote* (2), S. R.; 1365 *Bettecote in the manor of Oldswinford*, Lyt. Ch. The meaning is Betta's cot.

Beverbourn, tributary of Severn, 1 m. N. of Worcester.

904 *Beferburn*, C. S. 608; 969 *Beferie*, C. S. 1242. A. S. *befor*, *beofor*, beaver, and *burne*, M. E. *bourne*, a brook—Beaver brook (*v.* Barbourn and Bevere).

Bevere, h., and island in Severn, 3 m. NW. of Worcester. *Beverege insula Sabrinae*, Mon. Hist. Br. 600 D. 11 c. *Beverie*. A. S. *befor*, *beofor*, and *ig* (*g* = *y*), island—Beaver island. *V.* Barbourn, *ante*, and Beverbourn; *ege* and *ie* are M. E. forms of *ig*.

Bewdley. Nash, ii. 274, says, 'Bewdley is not mentioned in D., but is there included in Ribeford.' 'From its pleasant situation it is called, in French, *Beaulieu* (beautiful place), from whence, by corruption, it got the name of Bewdley.' 1304 *Beaulieu*; 1388 *Beaulieu*; c. 1440 Bewdeley. It has always been considered 'Beaulieu' by Camden, Leland, and others. Beaulieu, in Hants, is pronounced Bewley. Cp. pronunciation of *beauty*; the *d* in Bewdley is irregular.

Billesley, h., 3½ m. NE. of Kingsnorton. 1275 *Billesleye*, S. R. *Bil*, *Bill* was an A. S. p. n. I read this 'Bill's lea'; *v.* Ley.

Bines (The), farm, **Bines Coppice,** in Eastham. 'Bine' is a name applied to many climbing plants, to the climbing stem of the hop, and to certain kinds of hops. Bine = Bind; *v.* H. E. D., and English Plant Names, *s.* Bine.

Birch Farm, Birch Lane, Birch Orls (wood), in Severn Stoke. 1275 Richard *del Birche*, William *del Birche*, Thomas *del Birch*, Hugo *de Birche*, Juliana *del Byrche*, S. R., *s.* Severn Stoke. Probably the birch-tree, A. S. *berc*, *beorc* (*c* = *ch*), is here referred to, but, in Staffordshire, 'Birch' is frequently a form of A. S. *bryce*, M. E. *bruche*, later *birch*, meaning, in pl. names, a breaking up (for cultivation) of waste or woodland. *V.* Breach, Ridding, Nemmings, Orls.

Birlingham, 2½ m. S. of Pershore. 972 *Byrlinghamme*, C. S. 1281; *Byrlingahamme*, C. S. 1282; D. *Berlingeham*; 1275 *Byrlyngham*, S. R. The prefix is, I think, A. S. *byrle* (a cup-bearer, butler), and the *ing* (q. v.) patronymic. The

terminal is A. S. *hamm*, riverside meadow land (*v.* Ham, *b*)—'the meadow land of the sons (or descendants) of the butler.' Birlingham is on the Avon. To *birle, birling*, in the sense of 'pouring out, drinking,' is not yet obsolete; 'he dwells near the Tod's hole, a house of entertainment, where there has been mony a blithe *birling*' (Bride of Lammermoor, ch. xxiii, 157). The construction seems improbable, but I can make nothing of *Byrl-* as a p. n.

Birth or **Berth Hill,** in Eldersfield (1 m. E. of). This is on the western side of Severn, where W. long lingered. It is probably W. *berth*, fair, beautiful.

Birts Morton, 4 m. SW. of Upton-on-Severn. D. *Mortune*; 1275 *Morton Bree*, S. R.; 1327, 1340 *Morton Brut*, S. R. This is plain Moortown (*v.* More and Ton). *Birt* is derived from a family of 'le Bret,' who owned the manor in the 13 c. Walter le *Bret* and Robert le *Bret* were living there in 1275, and Robert le *Brut* in 1327; *Bret*, *Brut* are only variant forms.

Bishampton, 4 m. NE. of Pershore. The manor belonged to the Bishops of Worcester before the Conquest, but is not recorded in any extant A. S. charter. A *Biscopes dune*, Bishops hill, is mentioned in C. D. 724, and Kemble identifies it, in his Index, with Bishampton; but he is wrong, as the boundaries clearly refer to Bishopston, 2 m. NW. of Stratford-on-Avon. D. *Bisantune*; 11 c. *Bishamtone*, Hem. 301; 1275 *Bishampton*, S. R. This has nothing to do with a 'Bishop.' If it had, the original form would have been *Biscopes-hām-tūn*, and that could not have worn down to *Bisantune* by D. The forms yield 'the home town of Bisa' (gen. *Bisan*).

Bittell Farm, Bittell Reservoirs (Upper and Lower), on bounds of Alvechurch and Cofton Hacket. 1648 *Bittles*, Nash, i. 25. Emma *Bytilde* and Richard *Bitild* were living in Alvechurch in 1275 (S. R.), and probably gave name to the farm or took name from it.

Blackgrave Farm, in Kingsnorton (moated). A. S. *grāf*, a grove—Black grove. *V.* Bells Farm.

Blackminster, h., in Aldington. A. S. *mynster*, M. E. *minster*, a church, monastery—Black church (or monastery).

Blackmore End, Blackmore Park, Blackmore End Farm, Blackmore Grange, in Hanley Castle. 1275 Robert de *Blakemore* and Adam de *Blakemore* are assessed to the Subsidy, *s.* Hanley Castle. Blakemore = Black Moor (M. E. *blake*, black). *V.* More.

Blackstone Rock, on Severn, 1 m. below Bewdley. 1275 *Blakestone*, S. R.; M. E. *blake*, black (stone). Noake, 'N. and Q. for Worcestershire,' 247, says: 'Here is a hermitage, cut in the rock, to which entrance is gained by a low doorway into the kitchen, which has for a chimney a circular hole cut perpendicularly through the rock; there are also a chapel, a pantry, with a chamber over, an inner room, closets with loft over, a study with shelves cut for books, and another opening in the rock, either for a belfry or chimney. Small and rudely cut openings in the rock served for windows. In the front of the cell is a seat carved in the rock, from which the hermit looked forth on the Severn (which then ran closer to the rock than it does now) and the beautiful meadows and wooded banks adjacent. There is a tradition that this was at one time a smuggler's cave; it has of late been used as a cider-making house, &c.'

Blackwell, h., in Tredington, 2 m. NW. of Shipston-on-Stour. 964 *Blackwælle*, C. S. 1134; 978 *Blace wellan* (dat.), C. D. 620; D. *Blachewelle*; 1275 *Blakewell*, S. R. Belonged to the Bishops of Worcester from remote times, and is frequently mentioned in their charters. Black well means 'a dark spring,' probably from its locality; cp. Whit-well, 'white spring.'

Blackwell, in Wolverley, perhaps obs. 11 c. *Blacewælle*, *Blakewelle*, Hem. 261. *V.* Blackwell, *ante*.

Bladen, the ancient name of the Evenlode river (q. v.).

Blakedown, h., in Hagley. *Blake* is a M. E. representative of A. S. *blacan*, the weak dat. sing. of *blæc*, black—Black down (hill); *v.* Don.

Blakeley Hall, in Oldbury, was a grange belonging to the abbey of Halesowen. 14 c. *Blakeley*—Black lea (*v.* Ley).

Blakeshall, h., in Wolverley. 1275 *Blakesal, Blakesele*, S. R. The prefix is probably the p. n. *Blake*, and the terminal may be *hale* or *sele*, both words having the same meaning, 'hall, dwelling house'—Blake's hall.

Blakesley Hall, Yardley. *Blake* is here probably a p. n. (having the possessive *s*)—Blake's lea (*v.* Ley).

Blankquets, or **Blankets (The),** an ancient mansion and estate, 1½ m. N. of Worcester. A family named Blanket owned the estate and resided here in the 13 and 14 c. Robert *Blanket* is recorded in 1275, Agnes *Blanket* in 1327, and Osbert and John *Blanket* in 1340. The family probably gave its name to the place, and derived it from the article or from their colour. *Blanket, Blanquet* is an O. F. word, first found in our language in the 13 c.

Blockley, 3 m. NW. of Morton-Henmarsh. 855 *Bloccanleah*, C. S. 488; 978 *Bloccanlea*, C. D. 620; D. *Blockelei*; 1275 *Blockleye*, S. R. This is clearly Blocc or Blocca's lea (*v.* Ley). Though *Blocc* is not found as a p. n., it must have been one, as D. records three—*Blochesham*, a *Blochcshorde*, and *Blocheswic* (*ch* = *k*).

Bluntington, h., in Chaddesley Corbett. 13 c. *Bluntindon, Blontindon*. *Blunt* is not recorded as an A. S. p. n., but it must have been one. *Bluntsdone*, Blunt's hill, and *Bluntesham*, Blunt's home, are mentioned in D., and *Bluntesige*, Blunt's island, in C. D. 666. Assuming an original *Bluntingadūn*, the construction would be 'the hill of the sons (descendants) of Blunt'; *v.* Ing and Don.

Bockleton, 4 m. S. of Tenbury. D. *Boclintun*; 1275

Boclinton; 13 and 14 c. *Boklynton*, *Bocklington*, *Bokelinton*. I thought *Bockle-* represented the A. S. p. n. *Beoccel*; Professor Skeat says that is impossible, as A. S. *eo* only gives *e* or *i*, never *o*. I cannot identify it with any other name. For the terminal *v.* Ton. The *in* may represent a patronymic *ing* (q. v.). Cp. Bockleton, in Salop, which in 1321 is spelt *Bochtone*, in 1534 *Bucculton*.

Boddington Mill, 1 m. S. of Bromsgrove. D. *Bedindone* (berewick of Stoke Prior). This is probably a mistake of the D. scribe for *Bodindone*, which would yield an original *Bodwine's dun*—Bodwine's hill (*v.* Don). By the time of D. *Bodwine* was occasionally written *Boden* and *Boding*; it is probably the root of our family name *Boden*, *Bowden*.

Bordesley, h., in Tardebigg, 5 m. SE. of Bromsgrove. 12 c. *Bordesleye*; 1275 *Bordeshale*, *Bordesleye*, S. R.; 1327 *Bordeshale*. The prefix represents some p. n., perhaps *Brord-*, which by the 13 c. would probably lose the first *r*; the forms are too late for certainty; *v.* Ley.

Boreley Farm, in Ombersley. 1275 *Borleye*. Perhaps originally *Bār-leah* (long $\bar{a} = oa$)—the lea of the (wild) boar; but the only form is late. Cp. *Wulfleah*, now Woolley, *Heortleah*, the hart's lea, now Hartley, and *v.* Arley, and Ley.

Borley House, on Severn, 2 m. S. of Upton. D. *Burgeleye*, berewick of Ripple; 1705 *Borsley Lodge*. Probably the D. *Burge-* is a form of A. S. *burh* (*v.* Bury), and we should read *Burgeleye*, 'the fort near, or on, the lea.' Cp. several Burleys, and places commencing *Burgh-*.

Borough, Foreign. Some ancient towns, like Kidderminster, are, for certain administrative purposes, divided into 'the township of the Borough' and 'the township of the Foreign.' The Borough is the portion in which the burgesses had their houses and small enclosures attached. Beyond lay the common fields and the woods and wastes of the manor (called in early records the lord's *forinsic woods*), the legal

property of the lord, but over which his burgesses had, by grant or custom, rights of common, turbary, and wood for fuel, fencing, and building. 'Borough' is derived from A. S. *burh*, a fortified or enclosed place, a town or village; 'Foreign' from the L. *forinsecus*, outside, not domestic. The Boroughs were comparatively small in area, in Walsall 88 acres, Kidderminster 1213; whilst the Foreigns were 7782 and 9567 acres respectively. The country was evidently in early times mainly wood and waste; the towns, villages, and outlying farms were oases in the forest, and every man was, more or less, a farmer and a hunter.

Borough Hill, in Shipston-on-Stour. In a charter relating to Shipston (the reference to which I have mislaid) this place is called *hæthenan byriggelse*—the heathen burial-place. This is the term usually applied by the A. S. to tumuli. It is commonly supposed that they practised this mode of burial. They may have done so before their conversion to Christianity; but, if they did, would they call their forefathers 'heathens'? I have a strong belief that all tumuli, and most earthworks, are prehistoric.

Boughton, h., in Hill Croome (1½ m. NW. of). 1038 *Bocctun*, C. D. 760; 1275 *Boctone*, S. R.; 1327 *Bocton*, S. R. A. S. *bōc-tūn*, 'the town of the beech-tree' (*v.* Ton).

Bournbrook, village and river in Northfield. 1275 *Byrnebroc*, S. R. A. S. *burn*, *brōc*—both words having the same meaning, i. e. a small stream.

Bouts, h. and farm, in Inkberrow. *Bouts*, 'the going and returning of the plough along two adjacent furrows,' H. E. D. 'In ploughing or sowing, the length of a furrow and back again'; 'the extent of ground mown by a labourer mowing straight down the field,' E. D. D. *s.* Bout.

Bowercourt Farm, in Rock (moated). 1332 Henry *atte Boure*, S. R.; 1602 *The Bower*. A. S. *būr*; M. E. *boure*. The early meaning was a cottage, later a dwelling, abode. 'Court' is a mod. addition.

Braces Leigh, h., in Leigh, formerly belonged to the Braces, an ancient Worcestershire family (rightly *de Braiose*), from whom it passed to the Lygons by marriage in 1419.

Bradford, h., ½ m. S. of Bellbroughton. 1300 *Bradeford brugge* (bridge); 1351 *Bradeford*; 1367 *Bradeford.* A.S. *brād*, broad, and *ford*—Broadford (*v.* Ford). In 1300 Bradford Bridge was one of the western bounds of Feckenham Forest.

Bradley, h., 2 m. SW. of Feckenham. 789 *Bradanlege*, C. S. 256; 822 *Bradanleage*, C. S. 308; 962 *Bradanlæge*, C. S. 1086; D. *Bradlege. Brādan* is the dat. form of A. S. *brād*, broad, expansive—the broad lea (v. Ley).

Brand Hall, Warley Wigorn. 1309 'Together with the chantry belonging to the *Brendehalle* chapel of St. Catherine the Virgin' (translated), Lyt. Ch. *Brendhalle*=burnt hall, *brend* being a M. E. form of *burned* and *burnt.* The word was frequently used as an adjective.

Brandwood End, in Kingsnorton (1½ m. NE. of). Without forms certainty is impossible. *Brand* may represent a p. n., or it may be the mod. form of a M. E. *brend* (*v.* Brand Hall), in which case the construction would be 'burnt wood.'

Bransford, h., **Bransford Bridge** (over Teme), **Bransford Mill, Bransford Court,** 3 m. W. of Worcester. 716 *Branesforde*, C. S. 134; 1106 *Bregnesford*, C. S. 963; D. *Bradnesford*; 1275 *Branesford, Bransford.* The prefix certainly represents an A. S. name. I think *Bregn* (*g*=*y*), though not recorded, is a likely p. n.; perhaps a short form of *Bregent*, an unrecorded name clearly represented in *Bregentford*, now Brentford. I read this as Bregn's ford (v. Ford).

Brant Hill Farm, 1 m. NE. of Bellbroughton. The modern form is probably also the ancient one, A. S. *brant*, steep, high.

Breach Farm, in Hunnington, **Breach Farm,** in Bellbroughton, **Breach Farm,** in Stoulton. Breach, Britch, Bratch, Birch, are common in Midland compound pl. names. The root is A. S. *bryce* (*breche*), M. E. *bruche*, *birch*, newly enclosed or broken-up ground. The name is generally found on the confines of ancient forests or wastes. It is equivalent to the Lancashire Royd, and to Ridding, Stockings, Stubbock, Old Fallings, Nemmings, &c., all meaning a clearing in the wilderness.

Bredicote, 3¼ m. E. of Worcester. 840 *Bradigcotan*, C. S. 428; c. 978 *Bradingccotan*, C. D. 683; D. *Bradecote*; 11 c. *Bradicote*, *Bradecote*. *Cotan* is the dat. sing. of A. S. *cote*, a cottage; the *ing* (q.v.) is probably possessive, and the prefix the A. S. p. n. *Brada*—the cottage belonging to Brada. The *i* in the mod. form is the remains of *ing*, and the *ig* in the first form probably a contraction for it.

Bredon, 3 m. NE. of Tewkesbury, is mentioned in numerous charters, commencing in 772, and always as *Breodune*, *Breodun in Huīc* (Wich), or *Breodun in provincia Wicciorum*. *Bre* is a Celtic word, meaning a hill or rising ground, e. g. Breiddon Hill, near Welshpool. The terminal *dun* is both Celtic and A. S., and means a hill or down, so that the name is a pleonasm, 'hill hill' or 'hill down.' Cp. Brewood, Staffordshire; Bredon-on-the-hill, Leicestershire; Brill, Oxon. (A. S. *Brehyll*); and Bradden, Northants (*Bredun* in 664).

Bredons Norton, *v.* Norton-by-Bredon.

Brend-, *v.* Brand-.

Bretforton, 3½ m. E. of Evesham. 709 *Bretferton*, C. S. 125; 714 *Brotfortun*, *Bretfertun*, C. S. 130; 860 *Bradferdtun*, 3 C. D. p. 396; D. *Bratfortune*; 1275 *Bretforton*, S. R. This is a puzzle, the only certainty being the terminal 'town' (*v.* Ton). The charters of 709 and 714 exist only in late copies, and are corrupt. Professor Skeat suggests the name was *Brad-ford-ton*, broad-ford-town, in very late spelling.

Bricklehampton, 3 m. SE. of Pershore. D. *Bricstelmestune*; 1275 *Brysthampton*, S. R.; 13 c. *Britchthelinton*. This is 'Beorhthelm's town' (*v.* Tōn); but *beorht-*, bright, has gone through some changes, and we find *Beorhthelm* written *Brihthelm* and *Brichthelm*. The last form has evidently been adopted in this pl. n., the *c* giving rise to the *ck*. Brighton is only the modern form of *Brihthelmestūn*. The common terminal *-hampton* has several origins, but I do not remember another instance of *-helmestūn* taking that form.

Bristitune, a D. berewick (outlying farm) of Kidderminster, is supposed to be obsolete, but the name may linger in some obscure form.

Bristnall Hill, Bristnall Fields, in Warley-Wigorn. 13 c. *Brussenhulle*, several times. *Brussen* is an obsolete form of *bursten* and *burst*, and means 'burst, broken'; *brussen* is the p. p. of *brust* and a M. E. form of *byrst*, to burst; all from A. S. *berstan*; *brist* is also a M. E. form of the word. 'Earth-breach' and 'broken-hill' are sometimes mentioned in A. S. charters. They probably refer to landslips or subsidences. For authorities *v.* H. E. D. *s.* Bursten, E. D. D. *s.* Brust, Stratmann's M. E. D. *s.* Brust. Bristnall means 'burst' or 'broken hill.'

Broadwas, on the Teme 7 m. W. of Worcester. 779 *Bradeuuesse*, *Bradewasse*, C. S. 233; c. 1108 *Bradewasse*; D. *Bradewesham*; 1275 *Bradewas*, S. R. A. S. *Brādwæsc* (*sc*=*sh*)—broad wash (land liable to flood, a swamp). Cp. Sugwas, Alrewas, Moccas, all on river sides.

Broadwaters, h., in Wolverley. The ancient name was *Usmere* (*v.* Ismere). Here is a long lake, or series of lakes, on the course of the Stour. 1275, 1327 *La Lake*, S. R.; 1713 *Broadwaters*. The present name seems almost modern.

Broadway, 5 m. SE. of Evesham. 972 *Bradwege* (*g*=*y*), C. S. 1281; 972 *Bradanwege* (dat. form), C. S. 1282; D. *Bradweia*; 1275 *Bradweye*, S. R. On the great road

between London, Worcester, and the West. The road is very wide through the village; plainly 'Broadway.'

Broc, D., Dodintret Hundred, Ralph de Mortimer; an unrecognized D. manor. The meaning is plain 'brook.'

Brockamin, h., in Leigh. 17 and 18 c. *Brocamin, Brocamine.* The prefix is doubtless A. S. *brōc*, a brook, but the terminal I cannot interpret, and it is probably corrupt.

Brockencote, h., in Chaddesley Corbett. 13 c. *Brochamcote*, S. R.; 1679 *Brockencott.* 'The 13 c. form suggests an original *Brōc-hīm-cotan*=at the cot at brook-home.' (Skeat.)

Brockhill Dingle, in Alvechurch. 1275 Juliana atte *Brochole*, S. R. The form is correct, and means 'the brook in the hollow,' A. S. *hol, holh*, having the sense of 'hollow' as well as 'hole,' and being the root of the modern word 'hollow.'

Brockhill Farm, Brockhill Wood, 1½ m. NW. of Redditch. 15 c. *Brockehull* (belonged to Bordesley Abbey). A. S. *brōc*, a brook—Brook hill. The form is late (*v.* Brockhill, *post*).

Brockhill Farm, Brockhill Wood, in Beoley. 1275 *Brokhull*, S. R.; 1327 *Brochull*, S. R. 'Brook hill,' *v.* Brockhill, *ante.*

Bromsgrove. 804 *Bremesgrǣfan* (dat.), C. S. 313; 804, 821 *Bremesgrǣf*; 822 *Bremesgraf*; D. *Bremesgrave*; 1275 *Bremesgrave*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Brēm*, and *grāf*, grove—Brēm's grove. *Brēm* means renowned, illustrious. A *Brēm* fought for the Conqueror at Hastings and the name is recorded in D. A *Brēm* gave name to Birmingham, originally *Bremingeham* (*g* soft), 'the home of the descendants of *Brēm*'; and thence 'Brumagem.' The old meaning of 'grove' was a thicket, rather than a small wood; Crawford Charters, 61.

Bromwich Wood, in Northfield. A family of 'de Bromwich' were living in Northfield in the 12 c., and are frequent witnesses to mediaeval deeds. A charter of 1383

mentions 'the manor of Frankley, Bromwich, and Oldenhull,' and 'Bromewychestude' (stead) and 'Bromewycheslond' are frequently referred to in the Lyt. Chart. Before the 13 c., when family names were rare, a new-comer was frequently described by his Christian name, adding 'de,' and the name of the place he came from. A family residing in its native place only took the place name when they owned the estate or manor.

Brookhampton, h., in Ombersley. 1275 *Brochamtone, Brokamtone,* S. R. This in A. S. would be *Brōc-hām-tūn*— Brook home town (*v.* Ham and Ton).

Broom, 5 m. E. of Kidderminster. 1275 *Brome* (3), S. R. A. S. *brōm,* broom (*genista*). Probably from the original settlement being made upon a heath. It lay within the ancient limits of Feckenham Forest.

Broom Hall, in Yardley (moated). 972 *Bromhalas,* C. D. 570; 1275 *Bromhale,* S. R. *Brōmhalas* I translate 'broomy meadows' (*v.* Hale). The original meaning of *brōm,* broom, was 'a thorny shrub' (whence bramble), 'furze or gorse,' so that the meaning here is a heath or wilderness; in later times it became confined to the common broom plant. Broom Hall adjoins 'Yardley Wood.'

Broomhall, h., in Norton by Kempsey. 1275 *Bromhale,* S. R. (*v.* Broom Hall, *ante*).

Broom Hill, h., in Bellbroughton. 1275 *Bromhull,* S. R. Broomy hill (*v.* Broom Hall, *ante*).

Broughton, or **Drakes Broughton,** h., in Pershore (2½ m. NW. of). 972 *Broctune,* C. S. 1282; D. *Broctune*; 1275 *Broctone,* S. R. *V.* Broughton Hacket, *post.* William *le Drake* was living here in 1275, S. R.

Broughton Hacket, 6 m. N. of Pershore. 972 *Broctune,* C. S. 1281; D. *Broctune*; 12 c. *Brocton,* Lyt. Ch.; 1275 *Brocton Haket,* S. R. There is no evidence that the Hacket family ever owned the manor, or held property here, but they probably did so before 1275; they gave name to Cofton

Hacket. All Broughtons (in the Midlands) were originally *Brōctūn*—Brook town. Bellbroughton, though spelt *Broctune* in A. S. charters, is *Brotune* in D., and in the 13 c. is written *Brotune, Broton,* and *Brotton.*

Broughton (Temple), f., **Broughton Wood, Broughton Green,** in Hanbury. *V.* Broughton Hacket, *ante.* The estate was called Temple Broughton because it belonged to the Knights Templars.

Buckle Street is a portion of the Icknield Street lying S. of Bidford, running by Church Honeybourne, near Weston-sub-Edge, Saintbury, and over Broadway Hill on the Cotswolds. 709 *Buggildestret, Buggildstret, ac inde in ealdgare quod indigenae nannemonnesland vocant secus Buggildestret* ('and thence to the old gore (narrow strip) which the natives call No man's land, by the side of *Buggildestret*'). This charter refers to the road S. of Honeybourne, and the extract to the portion between Saintbury and Newcomb, on Willersey Hill. 860 *Buggan strēt,* C. D. 289 (S. of Honeybourne); 967 *Bucgan stræt* (3), C. S. 1201 (between Bidford and Honeybourne). The earliest charter is entitled to the most respect, and that gives us 'Burghild's street' (A. S. fem. p. n. *Burghild*). The later charters yield us Bucga's street (A. S. fem. p. n. *Bucge*). The modern form supports the oldest charter. It would seem from the extract that the portion of the Icknield Street between Saintbury and Newcombe was abandoned as early as 709.—PS. *Bucge* is a short form of *Burghild* (*v.* Crawford Charters, p. 56), so the forms agree. *V.* Icknield Street, Hayden Way.

Buffwood, probably obsolete, near Clifton-on-Teme. 11 c. *Bufawuda,* Hem. 251. The prefix is curious and rare. It is A. S. *bufan,* above, and *wuda* (dat.), a wood—Above wood. The *a* in *above* is excrescent, and was not used until the 13 c.

Bullockhurst Farm, in Rock. 1275 *Bolluchurst,* S. R. The form is M. E., and means Bullock-wood (A. S. *hyrst, hurst,* a wood).

Bungay Lake Farm, 3 m. W. of Bromsgrove. Thos. *Bungy* is assessed in the 1275 S. R., *s.* Drayton, which is adjacent. Thos. *Bungy* is also assessed, *s.* Chaddesley Corbett, in 1327. *Bungy* is an obsolete word, meaning 'puffed out, protuberant,' likely to be applied to a corpulent man. Of course the family may have taken its name from the locality; cp. Bungay, in Suffolk, which means a peninsula in shape of a rounded hill; *v.* Skeat's Place-Names of Cambridgeshire, 56.

Bunkers Hill, f., in Wickhamford; **Bunkers Hole,** in Feckenham. There are numerous 'Bunkers hills' throughout the kingdom, but, having met with no early forms, I conclude it is a mere fancy name, conferred after the victory at Bunkers Hill, U. S., in 1775 (*v.* Vigo). Cp. Bunkers Hill, in Kinver; Bunkers Hill, near Bilston.

Burcote, h., 1½ m. NE. of Bromsgrove. D. *Bericote* (berewick of Bromsgrove); 1275 *Byrcote*, S. R.; 1300 *Byrecote*. The D. form suggests an A. S. *berecote*, a cot where grain was stored; cp. Berewick, Barton. The later forms suggest A. S. *byre*, a cattle-stall or shed, but that is hardly consistent with 'cot.'

Burf (The), hill, in Astley. The name is borne by several hills in Salop, all of which are crowned by prehistoric forts or entrenchments. Cp. Abdon Burf, Clee Burf, Burf Castle, &c. *Burf* has been said to represent W. *buarth*, an enclosure, place of assembly, a circle; but Professor Skeat considers it represents A. S. *burgh*, a fort (*v.* Bury), and to be a mere popular use of *-f* for *-gh*.

Bury, Borough, Berry. These terminals have their root in A. S. *burh*, dat. *byrig*, *byrg*, M. E. *burgh*, *borowe*, *burwe*, *borugh*, &c., meaning an enclosed place, from a castle, town, or village, to a single homestead surrounded by a wall or rampart of earth. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish the forms, which in M. E. are very varied, from A. S. *beorg*,

beorh, beorge, a hill, tumulus (*v.* Barrow). The *r* was strongly rolled, and the *h* was like Scotch *ch* in *loch*; thence development of *u* in form *borough*. Burgh, in Lincolnshire, is pronounced 'Borough.' *Burgh, burg, burh*, in A. S. dictionaries are generally interpreted 'a fortified place, a town, a city'; but, with few exceptions, towns and cities were not founded right away, but grew from small beginnings—perhaps a single homestead—and acquired a name before they had any pretensions to importance. In a charter of 996 'the old burgh' is mentioned as on the bounds of the manor. The bounds are precisely what they were, and the description so accurate that every locality can be identified. The 'old burgh' consists of seven small pits, the dwellings of some primitive race. No trace of enclosure or earthwork remains, and it is improbable that any ever existed. Pit-dwellings could only have been occupied by some persecuted feeble folk hiding themselves in holes; and yet the place is called a *burg*.

Bushley, 2 m. NW. of Tewkesbury. D. *Biselege*; 1275 *Bissele*y, S. R.; later *Bushley*. *Bush* is found freely in M. E. as *busk*, *bosche*, *busse*, *busch* (but no *bisse*). It has not been found in A. S., though recorded in Old High German as *bush*. We have therefore no authority for accepting the D. *bise-*, or the later *bisse-*, as forms of 'bush.' They probably represent the A. S. p. n. *Bisa*, *Bissa*. *V.* Ley and Bishampton.

Cadborough Coppice, in Oldberrow. *V.* Cadbury.

Cadbury Banks, prehistoric fort in Eldersfield; no forms. Cadbury, in Somerset, 6 m. SW. of Wincanton, and Cadbury, in Devon, 6½ m. NE. of Crediton, also have great earthworks, and are respectively named in D. *Cadeberie* and *Cadebirie*. These forms represent an A. S. *Cadanbyrig*, Cada's fort; *v.* Bury. It is curious that three fortified places, and they only, bear the same name.

Cakebould, h., in Chaddesley Corbett. 1275 *Cakebale*, S. R. I cannot translate this or make any useful suggestion. Cp. Cakemore, *post*, and Cakemuir, in Scotland.

Cakemore, h., in Warley Wigorn. 1309 *Cakemore*; 1427 *Cakkemore*. *V.* Cakebould, *ante*, and More.

Calcott Hill, in Clent. Calcott is a short form of *Caldecott* or *Caldicote*, derived from the A. S. form, *æt thām caldan cotan*, 'at the cold cot.'

Caldwell, h., ½ m. S. of Kidderminster. 1275 *Caldewell*, S. R.; formerly the estate and residence of the Cooksey or Cokesey family. A. S. *cald wyll*, cold spring.

Caldwell, h., **Caldwell Mill,** in Pershore. 1275 *Caldwelle*, S. R. A. S. *cald wyll*, cold spring.

Callow Hill, a common name in Worcestershire. A. S. *calo*, M. E. *calewe*, *callow*—bald, bare; applied to hills bare of timber or bush. *Moel* has the same meaning in W. A common English 13 c. surname, or nickname, is 'le kalewe'—the bald.

Cames Coomb (fields) and **Cames Coomb Wood,** in Elmley Castle, probably take their prefix from John *Caam*, who was living in Great Comberton, adjoining, in 1327, S. R. Richard *Cam* was also living in Little Comberton in 1275.

Cank, h., in Inkberrow, an enclosure in Nunnery Wood. *Cank* is a Midland dialectic word—to chatter, gabble, cackle (as geese); *canking-pleck*, a place to chat in. 'We heard the *cank* of the wild geese as they flew by,' 'what's all this *cank* about?' are Warwickshire and Worcestershire phrases (*v.* E. D. D.). The application requires local knowledge.

Carant Brook, flows from Bredon Hill into Avon at Tewkesbury. 780 *Cærent*, C. S. 236; 778 *Carent*, C. S. 232; 875 *Kærent*, C. S. 541; 977 *Kærente*, C. D. 617. *Ærest of tham burhgangeate in Kærente*—'first from the gate (wide enough for one) of the *burh*, to Kærente.' There are entrench-

ments on Bredon Hill, doubtless referred to in *burhgangeate* (*v.* Bredon, and Banbury Stone). *Cærent* is not an A. S. word; W. *caer*, 'a fort, rampart,' may be the prefix, but the rest is inexplicable. These old river names are very difficult to deal with. Cp. the 'Charente' river, France.

Carton, f., in Mamble (2 m. NE. of). D. *Carletune*; 1275 *Carkedon*, S. R.; 1332 *Carkeden*, S. R. I distrust the D. form. If accepted, the original form would be *Ceorlatune*, meaning 'the churls or husbandmen's town,' or 'Ceorle's town,' Ceorl being a common p. n., borne alike by princes and peasants. But then this should become *Charlton*. It could only be Carlton in the NE. of England, or in some locality frequented by Norsemen, and they had no influence whatever in Worcestershire (*v.* Charlton). Carkeden I cannot translate; that also must be a corrupt form. D. records 27 'Carletune,' all, except in this instance, in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Nottinghamshire; and 18 'Cerletone' (pr. Charlton), all in Mercian counties.

Castle Hill, f., in Wolverley. There is a moat here, an ancient building, earthworks, great fish-ponds, and very old trees. It was a hunting lodge, in Kinver Forest, of the A. S. and early Norman kings. The buildings were fortified (hence Castle), and there was a prison (Staffordshire Pipe Rolls, 12 c.). *V.* Kinver, Kingsford.

Castle Morton, or **Morton Folliot,** 4 m. W. of Upton-on-Severn. 1275, 1333 *Morton Folet*, S. R. There was an early Norman castle here. The Folliots, an ancient Worcestershire family, are believed to have held Morton in early times (Nash, ii. 109). A. S. *Mōrtūn*, Moor town. *V.* More and Ton.

Catharine (Saint), Chapel and Well, summit of Bredon Hill. No information.

Catshill, h., in Bromsgrove. 1275 *Catteshull*; 13 and 14 c. *Cateshull, Kateshull.* A. S. p. n. *Cæt*; M. E. *hull*—Cæt's hill. Cp. Catshill, in Wilts. (near Trowbridge); Catshill,

5 m. SW. of Lichfield, a tumulus, and boundary of three manors.

Caunsall, h., in Wolverley. 1275, 1327 *Conneshale*, S. R. *Conne* doubtless represents a p. n.; but the form is late, and probably corrupt; for the terminal, *v.* Hale.

Chadbury, h., in Norton, 2 m. N. of Evesham. 714 *castellum de Chadelburi*, C. S. 131; 860 *Ceadweallan byrig* (2), 3 C. D. 395. *Ceadwealla, Ceadwalla* (*ce* = *ch*) was an A. S. p. n. It was borne by two early kings, and by a brother of St. Ceadda (Chad)—Ceadwalla's burgh (*v.* Bury). The charter of 714 is only preserved to us in late copies, and it is not unlikely that the copyist pronounced Chadbury as it was spelt in his time. It is hardly possible that *Ceadwallan byrig* could have been shortened to *Chadelburi* by 714.

Chaddesley Corbett, 4½ m. SE. of Kidderminster. 816 *Ceaddesleage*, C. S. 357. D. *Cedeslai*; 1275 *Chaddesleye*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Cead, Ceadd* (Chad)—Chad's lea (*v.* Ley). The Corbets were its manorial lords in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Chadwick, h., 1 m. SW. of Hartlebury. 1300 *Chadeleswicke, Chadeswicke*; 1327 *Chedewyke*, S. R. This is a case of phonetic decay. I do not doubt that an A. S. form would give us *Ceadweallan-wic*, Ceadwealla's village (*ce* = *ch*) (*v.* Wich). It is impossible to disregard the *le* in the forms here, and in Chadwick, *post*; *v.* also Chadbury. (In the O. M., 1 in. 1832, this place appears as 'Cherwick.')

Chadwick, h., **Chadwick Grange,** 3 m. N. of Bromsgrove. D. *Celdvic*; 1275 *Chadleswich*, S. R.; 1240 *Chadelewick*; 13 c. *Chadeleswich, Chaddewyke*; 14 c. *Chadeleswich*; 1432 *Chaddeswick*. A. S. *Ceadweallan-wic*, Ceadwealla's village (*ce* = *ch*). *V.* Wich, Chadwick, *ante*, and Chadbury.

Charford, h., 1 m. S. of Bromsgrove. 1275 *Cherleford*, S. R.; 1327 *Charleford*, S. R. A. S. *Ceorla-ford*, the churl's ford. *Ceorl* (churl), a countryman, husbandman.

Charlton, h., in Cropthorne, 2 m. SE. of Evesham. 780 *Ceorletune*, C. S. 235; 11 c. *Ceorletune*; D. *Carletune*; 1108 *Ceorletune* (*ce* = *ch*)—the churl's town (*v.* Charford).

Chaseley, 3 m. SW. of Tewkesbury. 816 *Ceadresleahge*, *Ceadresleage*, C. S. 356; 1108 *Chaddesleia*; 1275 *Chaddesleye*, S. R.—'Chad's lea' (*v.* Chaddesley, *ante*).

Chauson, h., 1½ m. SW. of Droitwich. D. *Celvestune*; 1108 *Chalvestone*; 1275, 1327 *Chalvestone*, S. R. The forms yield an original A. S. *cealfestūn* (*ce* = *ch*), Calf's town (any enclosed place was a *tūn*, *v.* Ton). Kelvedon (Hatch) in Essex has a similar root—Calf's hill; its M. E. forms oscillate between *c* and *ch*, finally settling down to *k*.

Chester Lane, Kidderminster, part of an unrecognized Roman way from Chester to Worcester, Gloucester, and Bath, via Whitchurch, Newport, Whiston Cross, Patshull, Rudge Heath, Enville Common, Kinver, Kidderminster (a mile N. of), and Ombersley. It was a common road from Chester to the South until about 1750, when turnpike roads diverted the traffic, below Newport, via Wolverhampton, Himley, &c.

Chevington, h., 2 m. NW. of Pershore. 972 *Civincgtune*, C. S. 1282; D. *Civintone*; 1275 *Kyvintone*, *Chyvintone*, S. R. From the A. S. p. n. *Ceofa* (*c* = *ch*), plus suffix *-ing* (q.v.)—the town of the descendants of Ceofa. Cp. Chevington in Suffolk, and two Chevingtons in Northumberland.

Chockenhill, h., in Leigh (1½ m. SW. of). 14 c. *Chokenhull*, *Chokkenhul*, *Cokenhill*, *Cokenhall*, *Chokynhall*. 18 c. *Chockenhill*. This is probably from the A. S. masc. p. n. *Ceocca* (*ce* = *ch*), which would give an original *Ceoccanhyll*, Ceocca's hill.

Church Honeybourne, *v.* Honeybourne (Church).

Churchill, 3½ m. SW. of Stourbridge. D. *Cercehalle*; 12 c. *Chirchhulle*; 1275 *Chyrchull*, S. R.; 16 c. *Churchehylle*. This means 'Church hill,' though D. does not record a church or priest here. The present church, Nash says, does not stand upon a hill.

Churchill, 4 m. SE. of Worcester. D. *Circehille*; 1275 *Cherchull*, S. R.—Church hill. D. records a priest as then residing here. Church was variously spelt: A. S. *circe, cirice*, M. E. *cyrce, chirche, circe*, &c., all pronounced church.

Church Lench, *v.* Lench (Church).

Cladswall, h., in Inkberrow (2 m. NE. of). 1357 *Clodeshale*; 1640 *Cladsal*; 1799 *Cladshall*. The prefix doubtless represents a p. n., probably Clodd or Clode, both M. E. family names; the terminal was *hale* (q. v.)—Clodd or Clode's meadow land.

Claines, 3 m. N. of Worcester. Not in D., being included in Northwick Manor. 11 c. *Cleinesse*, Hem. 427; from 12 c. always *Claines*. I can make nothing of this, and give it up.

Cleeve Prior, 5 m. NE. of Evesham. 888 *Clife*, C. S. 575; D. *Clive*. A. S. *clif*, M. E. *clive, cleeve*, a cliff, steep descent; the word is comparative, and in a level country was frequently applied to small eminences, or mere rising ground. Here some of the land projects over the river Avon. It was the property of the Priors of Worcester from remote times.

Clent, 4 m. SE. of Stourbridge. D. *Clent*; always *Clent*. This word is not to be found in any A. S. record or dictionary, and is assumed to be Scandinavian. In Old Icelandic it is *Klettr*, assimilated from *Klentr*, in Dan. and Sw. *Klint*, and means a rock, hill, a craggy or peaked hill; *v.* H. E. D. *s.* Clent and Clint. I suspect the word was also A. S., or how could it get into D.? The Norsemen never settled in Worcestershire, or left a word of their language there. The 'Clent hills' here are lofty and rugged landmarks. Cp. Clint, in Ripley, Yorkshire, Clintmains in Berwickshire, Clints of Dromore, in Scotland (all hills); but in the N. Scandinavian names abound. There is no other Clent in England.—PS. Professor Skeat is satisfied that *Clent* is not an A. S. word, but Old Norse, and may have been carried by the Norsemen up Severn.

Clerkenleap, h., in Kempsey (1½ m. N. of). 1649 *Clarkenlepp.* Doubtless 'Clerks' leap,' but in what sense the words are used it is difficult to say. 'Clerkene' is a M. E. gen. plural form of 'Clerk.' Cp. Clerkenwell, London; which, Stow (Survey, 1598) says, 'took the name of the Parish Clerks in London, who, of old time, were accustomed there yearly to assemble and to play some large history of Holy Scripture.' Clerkenwell was within the precincts of the Priory of St. John (demolished c. 1550), which may have given rise to the name, or to the Miracle plays referred to. The original meaning of 'clerk' was a man in a religious order, cleric, clergyman; but it came to mean also a scholar, penman, &c.

Clevelode, h., in Powick (3 m. S. of). 1275 *Clyvelode,* S. R.; 1300 *Clivelade*; 1319 *Clyvelode*; 1595 *Cleveloade. Clyve, Clive, Cleeve, Cleve,* are M. E. forms of *cliff,* a word applied in the Midlands to a steep bank, or, in a level district, to a mere hill. A. S. *lād* (*ā*=*o*) (earlier *gelād*) is a way, passage, frequently applied to ferries and fords on Severn. The hamlet of Clifton (q.v.) lies three-quarters of a mile E.

Clifton, in Severn Stoke (1½ m. N. of). *V.* Cleeve Prior, and Clevelode.

Clifton-upon-Teme, 7 m. NE. of Bromyard, on a hill overlooking the Teme. 934 *Cliftun,* C. S. 700, *Cliftune ultra Tamedam* (heading); D. *Clistune*; 1275 *Clifton,* S. R. A. S. *clif-tūn,* cliff town. The *s* in D. must be read *f,* those letters in A. F. being frequently undistinguishable. *V.* Cleeve Prior.

Clows Top, h., in Mamble, on the main road from Bewdley to Tenbury over Wyre Forest, 725 ft. above sea level; near are High Clows (f.) and Clows Cottage. 1633 *a hill called the 'Clowes Topp.'* The gen. *s* points to a p. n. *Clowe* or *Clouse* was a Worcestershire family name as early as 1332 (S. R.), and is probably here represented.

Cobley, h., 1½ m. SW. of Alvechurch. 12 c. *Cobbeslee*; 16 c. *Cobleyhull*; belonged to Bordesley Abbey—Cobb's lea (*v.* Ley). *Cobba* was an A. S. p. n., and *Cobbe* a common M. E. name, as Cobb is now.

Cochehi, in Doddingtree Hundred, an unrecognized D. manor. In 1327 Richard *Cokete* is assessed to the Subsidy, *s.* Suckley, S. R. Both names are curious, and somewhat alike, and both have corrupt terminals.

Cockshute, Cockshutts, Cockshot, Cockshoot, Cockshut, the name of several hills, farms, and woods in Worcestershire. The word has two meanings: (1) 'a broad way or glade in a wood, through which woodcocks, &c. might dart or "shoot," so as to be caught by nets stretched across the opening' (H. E. D. *s.* Cockshoot); (2) a spring or rivulet on a bank or hillside, to which a trough or spout was fixed to convey water to carts or vessels for domestic use. (Cp. H. E. D. *s.* Cock, *sb.*[1] 12.) In the majority of cases the last meaning would prevail, and local knowledge would be of service. Exs.: Cockshute in Malvern Link (spring here), Cockshutt Farm in Wichenford, Cockshutt Hill in Hadsor, Cockshute Farm in Dormston, Cockshut Hill in Lulsley, Cockshut Hill in Shelsey Beauchamp, Cockshutts in Berrow, Cockshot in Cakemore Halesowen (1440 *Kockshete*).

Cofton Hacket, 5 m. NE. of Bromsgrove. 780 *Coftune*, C. S. 234; 848 *Coftune*, C. S. 455; 934 *Coftune*, C. S. 701; D. *Costune*; 1275 *Coftone*, S. R.; 1327 *Costone*, *Coftone*, S. R. In some A. S. charters the name is written *Costone*, but they are only copies, and the *s* is a mistake for *f*, those letters in A. F. being much alike, and sometimes indistinguishable. The original charters extant are plain *Coftune*, and the pronunciation has accorded. The root is A. S. *cofa*, a small chamber or cell, a cove, and *tūn*, town (*v.* Ton). The Hacket family held Cofton in the 12 c. and afterwards. *Cofa* was not a p. n. Cp. Coven, in Staffs., and Coventry (A. S. *Cofantreō*).

Cole, river, North Worcestershire. 849 *Colle*, C. S. 455. In A. S. *col* means charcoal, and *Col, Cole*, was a p. n., but those forms are not applicable to a river. Cp. Cole, in Somersetshire; Cole, a rivulet in Wilts., several *Cole*brooks, and many pl. names commencing *Cole*. A. S. *cōl* means 'cool,' formerly pronounced *cole*; it is conceivable that the old pronunciation has been kept up in river names. If so Colebrook is simply 'cool brook,' and river Cole 'cool' river. The word is difficult to deal with.

Colemans Hill, in Cradley. 13 c. *Collemore, Collemor*, Lyt. Ch. The 'de Collemore' family frequently appear as parties or witnesses to the Lyttleton Charters between 1299 and 1425. No local 'Cole*man*' is mentioned. The prefix is probably A. S. *col*, M. E. *cole, colle*, (char)coal, but there is pit coal here which, in early times, has been worked on the outcrops; it is probably Coal moor (*v.* More) corrupted to Cole*man*.

Combe, a common terminal in West Saxon pl. names, and comparatively rare in Mercian. It is A. S. *comb, cumb*, from W. *cwm*, a hollow among hills, a valley.

Comberton, h., 1½ m. SE. of Kidderminster. 1275 *Cumbrintone*, S. R. *Cumbra* was an A. S. p. n., and I think this must be read 'Cumbra's town' (*v.* Ton). The *n* in the form might be the gen. addition, or be the remains of an original *Cumbringtun*, the town of the descendants of Cumbra (*v.* Ing). *Cumbrawylle* (Cumbra's spring) is mentioned in a charter of 980, C. D. 627, relating to Waresley, in Hartlebury, adjoining. 'Comberton, in Cambridgeshire, is "Cumbra's town."' (Skeat.)

Comberton (Great), Comberton (Little), 3 m. SE. of Pershore. 972 *Cumbringtune*, C. S. 1282; D. *Cumbrintune, Cumbritune*; 1275 *Cumbrintone*, S. R. *Cumbra* was an A. S. p. n. This is 'Cumbra's town,' or 'the town of the descendants of Cumbra,' if the *ing* is taken as a patronymic; *v.* Ing and Ton.

Comble, an unrecognized D. berewick (outlying farm) of Bromsgrove. Mr. J. Horace Round (Hist. of Worcestershire, i. 285) suggests it may be represented by Cobley Hill (*v.* Cobley), but that is improbable.

Combs Wood, in Halesowen. c. 1250 *his close of Cumbes*, Lyt. Ch. This can hardly have been a p. n. in 1250, though Coombes is now a common one. It is probably the pl. form of A. S. *cumb*, a valley (*v.* Combe).

Comhampton, h., in Ombersley (2 m. NW. of). There are many *-hamptons* (rightly *-hāmtūn*) hereabout. Professor Skeat suggests an A. S. *Cuman-hām-tūn* = home town of Cuma; Cuma = stranger.

Conderton, h., in Overbury. 875 *Cantuaretun*, C. S. 541; 1327 *Conterton*, S. R. Professor Skeat says: 'The charter of 875 is old and good; Cantuare = *Cantwara*—"of the men of Kent" (*tūn*, town); it is an interesting record of some Kentishmen's settlement here.' The charter is a grant by Ceolwulf, king of the Mercians, of this manor (with Overbury and Pendock) to the monks of Worcester.

Coneybury, f., in Dormston; **Coneyburrow Hill,** in Longdon. *Cony, coney*, is a M. E. word (imported from France) for a rabbit. The terminal is probably *burrow*, a M. E. word of doubtful origin, of which *bury* was a form, Coney-bury, or -burrow, meaning a rabbit warren.

Coneyswick (or **Conningswick**), f., in Rock (½ m. E. of). D. *Colingwic*; 1275 *Collingwike*, S. R.; 1327 *Collyng(wic)*, *Colyngwyk*, S. R.; 1603 *Conisweeke*. Professor Skeat says: 'A. S. *Coll-inga-wic* = the village of the sons of Coll'; *v.* Ing and Wich.

Cook Hill, h., in Inkberrow (2 m. E. of). There was a nunnery here founded by Isabella de Beauchamp c. 1250. 13 c. *Cochulle, Cochull*; 14 c. *Cokhull, Cokehull.* The prefix probably represents the p. n. *Cōc* (Cook), a mediaeval family name.

Cookley, h., in Wolverley. 964 *Culnan clif*, C. D. 1251; 1066 *Cullecliffe*; 1275 *Coleclif*, S. R. This is a strong example of corruption, but when the meaning of a name has been lost there is a tendency to change it to something which has a meaning, or is more familiar. *Culna* has no meaning in A. S., and I think must have been a p. n., though I find no record of it; *Culnan* would be the gen., and I read this as Culna's cliff. *V.* Clifton.

Cooksey, h., 3 m. W. of Bromsgrove. D. *Cochesei*, berewick of Bromsgrove; 13 c. *Cokesey*; 1275 *Cokesey*, S. R. The D. *Coches*=A. S. *cōces*, cook's. The terminal is a form of A. S. *ig*, island, the old meaning of which was watery land, as well as land entirely surrounded by water. The construction is Cook's island. It would be difficult to say whether a p. n. or a cook is referred to.

Cordiwell Hall, 3 m. W. of Bromsgrove, formerly spelt *Caudwell*, perhaps derives its name from a family of 'Cawdwell' who formerly held lands in Bromsgrove Manor (Nash, i. 155); but quite as likely the family derived its name from the place. If so, the original A. S. form would be *Cealdwiell*, M. E. *Caldwelle*, Cold well (spring).

Cornbrook, Cornwood, Cornlyth, in Newnham. 777 *Cornwelle*, C. S. 222; 957 *Corna broc, Corna wudu, Corna lyth, otherne Corna broc*, C. S. 1007; 1275 *Cornwode*, S. R.; 1332 *Corndale*, S. R. The prefix has nothing to do with *corn* (grain), and that is all that can be said, for *corna* is not translatable. The terminals *brōc*, brook, *wudu*, wood, *lyth*, a hillside, are plain enough; but *corna* even Professor Skeat 'gives up.'

Corse Lawn, in Chaseley, 3 m. W. of Tewkesbury. *Corse* is a M. E. form of *Causey*, derived from O. F. *caucie*, a raised way across low, wet ground. The old meaning of 'lawn' is an open space in a wood or wild land. An ancient road from the N. to Gloucester traverses Corse Lawn, and in mediaeval times the locality was forest ground.

Cotheridge, 4 m. W. of Worcester. 963 *Coddan hrycce, Coddan hrycge,* C. S. 1106; D. *Codrie*; 13 c. *Coderugge.* The D. Norman scribe was evidently perplexed by the A. S. *hrycce,* and washed his hands of it. *Coda, Codda, Codd* was an A. S. p. n., *Codanford* and *Coddan hrycge* appearing in A. S. charters, the *n* making the gen. A. S. *hrycg,* M. E. *rugge,* means a ridge of land, a long, narrow hill. This is 'Codda's ridge.' *V.* Cotteridge, and Cotswolds.

Cotswolds (The), a tract of very lofty land lying in the counties of Worcester, Gloucester, and Oxford. 780 *monte quem nominant incolae mons Hwicciorum* ('the hill which is called by the inhabitants the hill of the Hwiccii'), C. S. 236; 964 *in monte Wiccisa,* C. S. 1135; 1231 *Coteswold*; 15 c. *Cotsold, Cotsowlde, Cottasowlde, Cotteswold, Cottyswold, Cotes-wolde.* I have met with no earlier forms of this name, though it is clear, from their abundance, that it was ancient, and in familiar use. Its absence from records arises from the fact that it had no legal status; and though it is not to be found in any A. S. record, it is certainly of A. S. origin. A. S. *weald, wald, wold* is 'a tract of hilly ground, timbered or bare, in a wild state.' 'The original sense may have been "hunting ground," considered as the possession of a tribe' (Skeat's Ety. Dict., *s.* Wold). This description accords with the former condition of these hills. *Cots-* is certainly a corrupt form, and I suggest represents the gen. of the p. n. *Cod* or *Codd,* giving us an A. S. *Codeswoldes,* which one would expect to become Cotswolds, *d* and *t* being frequently interchanged. *Code* is recorded in D. as being the name of a Saxon possessor. This suggestion is supported by the etymological history of Cutsdean, of which, being an ancient manor, the records are early, and sufficiently abundant. This place is situate in the heart of the Cots-wolds, and in 730 Offa, king of the Mercians, granted to the monastery of Bredon in the province of the Hwiccii (among other manors) certain lands 'in the hill which is called by the

natives the hill of the Hwiccii, *æt Codeswellan'* (Cod's spring), C. S. 236. Soon afterwards the monastery of Bredon passed into the hands of the Bishop of Worcester, and in 840, at a Witenagemot held at Tamworth, Beorhtwulf, king of the Mercians, confirmed the before-mentioned manors and *Codeswelle* to the bishop, C. S. 430. In 974 Bishop Oswald leased *Codestune* (Cod's town) for three lives, C. S. 1299. The change of terminal from *welle* to *tune* is afterwards maintained, similar changes frequently occurring in early times. In 987 it is *Codestune*, C. D. 660, and it is *Codestune* in D. Later the *d* becomes *t*, and in 1275 it is *Cotestone*, in the 15 c. *Cotesdon*, in the 16 c. *Cuddesdon*. The *Cod* who gave his name to Cutsdean, and as I suggest to the Cotswolds, is not unlikely to have been a hermit or holy man who settled by a spring in the wilds (the grant to the monastery of Bredon rather favours the idea), or he may have been an early settler of sufficient importance to impress his name not only on Cutsdean (Cod's town, *v.* Ton), but also on the Cotswolds (Cod's wolds).

Cotteridge Farm, in Kingsnorton. 1275 *Coderugge*, S. R.; 1321 *Coderugge*, Lyt. Ch. A. S. p. n. *Code*, and *hricg*, M. E. *rugge*, a ridge, long, narrow hill—Code's ridge. Earlier forms might have given us the p. n. *Coda*, *Codda*. Mark the tendency of *d* to become *t*. *V.* Cotheridge, Cotswolds.

Cowbach, field name in Clent, near St. Kenelm's Chapel. It is said St. Kenelm was murdered in Cowbach, c. 820. William of Malmesbury tells the story (p. 238, Bohn's ed.), and says (he wrote in the 12 c.), 'The body of the saint is very generally adored, and there is hardly any place in England more venerated, or where greater number of persons attend at the festival (Dec. 13); this arising from the long-continued belief of his sanctity and the constant exhibition of his miracles.' The meaning of the name is 'Cow valley.' *V.* Bach.

Cowsdown, h. and hall, ½ m. S. of Upton Snodsbury. This ancient estate is described in D., without name, under

Snodsbury, as four hides, less one virgate, held by Urse d'Abitot. c. 1108 *Colleduma* (a L. record in which all the names are severely latinized); 1275 *Coulesdon* (3), S. R.; 1300 *Coulsdon*; 13 c. *Coulesdone*; 1332 *Coulesdon*; 16 c. *Coudesdon*. The prefix represents the A. S. p. n. *Cūl*, of which *Cūla*, a weak form, is recorded (*ū* = *ow*). Cp. Coulesdon, in Surrey, and Couleston, in Wilts., which have better preserved their ancient forms. The terminal was originally *dūn* (down), *v.* Don. This is another example of the tendency to change a name from something which has no apparent meaning to something which has one.

Crabs Cross, h., 2½ m. S. of Redditch, at the junction of the Ridgeway (Birmingham to Evesham) with the old road from Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Kidderminster, and Bromsgrove to London, and a mile S. of Headless Cross (q. v.). Probably a M. E. name from the p. n. 'Crab,' and 'cross,' from cross roads. In the S. R. of 1332 John 'Crabbe' is assessed under Bromsgrove, which included a wide district round it.

Cradley, 2 m. NE. of Stourbridge. D. *Cradeleie*; 12 c. *Crandelega*, *Cradlega*, *Cradelega*; 1275 *Cradeley*. The terminal is clearly *ley* (q. v.)—untilled land used as pasture. The prefix is corrupt. I think it represents a p. n., perhaps *Creda*. Cradley in Herefordshire is *Credleaie* (ley) in D.

Craycomb, h., **Craycombe Hill,** in Fladbury. 1275 *Craucombe*, *Crowecombe*, S. R. A. S. *crāwe*, crow (bird), *cumb*, valley—Crow valley. Perhaps in allusion to a rookery; rooks being commonly called crows. Cp. Crawley, in Hants (A. S. *Crāwan-lea*), the crow's lea. *Crāwe* was also a fem. p. n.

Croome d'Abitot, 4 m. SW. of Pershore. 972 *Cromb*, C. S. 1281; *Cromban* (dat.), C. S. 1282; D. *Crumbe*; 1275 *Crombe Dabitoth*, S. R. Clearly A. S. *crumb*, *cromb*—bent, crooked, curved. There are three Croomes, Croome d'Abitot,

Earls Croome, and Hill Croome, all separate manors, so that the term can hardly be applied to any natural feature not common to all. They all abut on Severn, here peculiarly winding, and I think its curved course may have given rise to the name. W. *crwm*, *crom*, I. and G. *crom*, have the same meanings as the A. S. forms; hence many place names in Wales, Ireland, and Scotland commence *Crum-* or *Crom-*. *Crumlin*, the winding glen, is a very common name in Wales and Ireland. Cp. *Cromford*, *Cromhall*, *Crompton*, *Cromwell*, and *Croom* in England. The d'Abitots came with the Conqueror, and Urse d'Abitot is recorded in D. as holding 153 manors, including Croome. He was Sheriff of Worcestershire, and according to the chronicles of his day a very savage 'Bear.' He took his surname from the town of St. Jean d'Abbetot, 12 m. E. of Havre. His heir was an only daughter, who married a Beauchamp. It is curious to note the equanimity with which men accepted uncomplimentary nicknames. 'William the Ass' is gravely recorded in D. as a tenant in capite. Osbert and John de Abbetot were living here in 1275, and were assessed to the Subsidy.

Croome (Earls), 4½ m. SW. of Pershore. 969 *Cromman*, *Croman*, *Cromban* (dat. forms); D. *Crumbe*; 1275 *Crombe Simon*, S. R.; 16 c. *Cromb-Symonds*, otherwise *Earls Croomb*. Simone de Crombe was living here in 1275; his family owned the manor; he was followed by the Earls of Warwick. For Croome, *v.* Croome d'Abitot.

Croome (Hill), 6 m. SW. of Pershore. 1038 *Hylcromban* (dat.), C. D. 760; D. *Hilcrumbe*. A. S. *hyll*, hill; for Croome, *v.* Croome d'Abitot.

Cropthorne, 3 m. SE. of Pershore. 780 *Cropponthorn*, *Croppethorne*, C. S. 235; 841 *Croppanthorn*, C. S. 432; 964 *Croppethorne*, C. S. 1135; D. *Cropetorn*. The charter of 780 describes Cropthorne as *regalem vicum*; the charter of 841 was written and signed at Cropthorne by Berhtwulf, king of the Mercians, on Christmas Day, his queen Sæthryth

and many notables being also present and parties to the charter. It seems therefore that Cropthorne at a very early period was a royal residence. . The meaning is plainly Croppa's thorn (*Croppanthorne* being the gen.), probably because Croppa's land was bounded by some notable thorn, a common boundary. In a perambulation of the manor (Nash, i. 271, apparently 17 c.) 'a great bush on the top of the fields dividing Cropthorne and Charlton' is stated to be the boundary.

Cross in Hand, Cross o' th' Hand, a frequent name for cross or diverging roads. It has its origin in a finger-post, which somewhat resembles a cross. 1762 Foote, *Orator*, 1, 'A cross in the hands with letters to direct you on your road.' 1771 *Maid of B.*, 'Pushing forth his fingers like a cross in the hand to point out the different roads on a common.'

Crowfield Farm, 2 m. NW. of Bromsgrove. 1275 *Crowefelde*, S. R.; 1327 *Croufelde*, S. R.—Crow field, perhaps from a rookery, rooks being frequently called crows.

Crowle, 5 m. E. of Worcester. 831 *Croglea*, C. S. 416; 840 *Crohlea*, C. S. 428; D. *Croelai*, *Crohlea*; 1275 *Crowele*, S. R. The prefix is A. S. *croh*, commonly translated 'saffron,' but I am not sure it should not be 'crocus,' from which bulb saffron was produced (Gk. κρόκος means saffron). In the charter of 840 *Crohwell* (spring) is mentioned, probably because the crocus grew freely there. By 1332 *Crohwell* appears to have become *Crocuswell*, as Richard de *Croccuswell* is recorded in the S. R. for that year as residing at Crowle. I translate this as the lea (or field) of the crocus (or saffron). Saffron was anciently much in request for medicinal, colouring, and flavouring purposes. The plant which produces saffron (*Crocus sativus*) is frequently called saffron. ('The A. S. *croh* is nothing but the L. *crocus* done into English spelling: not a Teutonic word, but Greek, perhaps Eastern.' Skeat.)

Crownest, h., 2 m. W. of Worcester. 1275 *Crowenest,* S. R.; 1327 *Crowenest,* S. R.; 1332 *Crowenest,* S. R.; plainly 'Crow's nest.' Nash, ii. 311, says, 'Crowneast, now vulgarly called Crow's nest.' The early forms show that he was wrong, and the 'vulgar' were right.

Cruckbarrow Hill, Cruckbarrow Farm (moated), 2 m. SE. of Worcester. 1275 *Cruckberew, Crokeborow, Crokeberew,* S. R.; 14 c. *Cruckeberwe, Crokkeberewe.* The prefix is O. W. *cruc,* later *crûg,* a mound tumulus + M. E. *berewe* (*v.* Barrow), which has a similar meaning, and would be added when the meaning of *cruc* had been forgotten. A pl. name composed of two languages is exceptional, but there are many examples, as also of pleonasms; cp. Tor-pen-how, hill, hill, hill.

Crumfield, h., in Bentley Pauncefote, 2 m. SW. of Redditch. Assuming the modern form to be correct, this should be construed 'crooked field' (*v.* Croome d'Abitot, and Field).

Crundels Farm, 1 m. N. of Bewdley; **Crundles Farm,** in Wichenford; **Upper** and **Lower Crundel End,** in Stockton; **Upper Crundel Farm,** in Abberley. *Crundel* is an A. S. word the meaning of which has long been doubtful; it is now settled as 'a ravine, a strip of covert dividing open country, always in a dip, usually with running water,' E. D. D. The word is found in over sixty charters, on manorial boundaries.

Crutch, h., and **Crutch Hill,** in Hampton Lovet, 2 m. N. of Droitwich. 12 c. *Cruche*; 1275 *Cruch, Cruche, Cruce,* S. R.; belonged anciently to the nunnery of Westwood. M. E. *crûche, crouche,* a cross. The nuns probably set up here a wayside cross.

Cudeley, h., in Spetchley, 2 m. E. of Worcester. 974 *Cudinclea,* C. S. 1298; D. *Cudelei*; 1275 *Cuddeley, Codeley,* S. R. *Cudd* was an A. S. p. n., and this is Cudd's lea (*v.* Ley). The *inc* in the first form must be read *ing,* and is

patronymic (*v.* Ing); it seems to have dropped out by D. The construction of that form is 'the lea of the sons (descendants) of Cudd,' still a family name.

Cutlers Rough, in Frankley. A family of *Curtiler, Curteler, Curtilar* lived in Frankley and are frequent witnesses to local deeds in the 13th and 14th centuries (Lyt. Ch.). The original name is 'le Curtiler,' which means 'the Gardener.'

Cutsdean, 5 m. NE. of Winchcombe. I have dealt with this under the 'Cotswolds' (q.v.).

Darlingscot, h., in Tredington, nr. Shipston-on-Stour. 13 c. *Darlingscote.* Clearly 'Darling's cot.' The hamlet is probably of M. E. origin, as 'Darling' does not appear as a p. n. before the 13 c., though the word itself (*dēor-ling*) is A. S.

Dawshill, in Powick. John *Dawe* was living in Powick in 1275, S. R. He, or his family, may have given the name, or derived it.

Dayhouse Bank, h., **Dayhouse Wood,** in Romsley, Halesowen. *Deyhouse* is an obs. local word for a dairy, and *Dey* for a dairy-maid (or -man); *v.* H. E. D. and E. D. D. *s.* Dey. 'Deye' was the name of a family, witnesses or parties to many Halesowen charters in the 14 and 15 c. (Lyt. Ch.).

Daylesford, 3½ m. E. of Stow-on-the-Wold. 718 *Dæglesford,* C. S. 139; 777 *Deilesford,* C. S. 222; 841 *Dæglesford,* C. S. 436; 964 *Dæiglæsford,* C. S. 1135; 978 *Dæglesforde,* C. D. 623; D. *Eilesford* (the D. scribe, or copyist, has evidently omitted the *D*); 1275 *Dayles-ford,* S. R. A. S. p. n. *Dægl* (Dayl)—Dægl's ford; *v.* Ford.

Deadmans Ait, in Offenham, almost an island in Avon. *Ait* is an old English word for a small island. There are several *aits* or *eyots* on the Thames.

Dean Brook, Himbleton. 956 *Dene,* C. S. 937. I doubt if this name is A. S.; it can hardly be a form of A. S. *denu,* a valley. It may be Celtic; there are three streams in Scotland named Dean (G. *deann,* swift, impetuous). There is a stream in Ireland, Deenagh, which Joyce (Irish Names of Places, 2nd S. 443) translates 'strong, vehement,' the stream being subject to floods.

Defford, 3 m. SW. of Pershore. 972 *Deopford,* C. S. 1281; 972 *Deopanforda* (dat.), C. S. 1282; D. *Depeford.* A. S. *dēop ford*—deep ford. The village lies in a half circle of the Avon.

Digbeth Farm, in Northfield. Cp. Digbeth, street in Walsall, Digbeth in Birminghan, and Digbeth in Coventry. Supposed to be a corrupt form of *dike path.* Digbeth, in Walsall, is situate close to the bank of the ancient pool of the Lord's mill. The other Digbeths are in low-lying situations. *Dike* (A. S. *dīc*) means a ditch, also an embankment, and may include both. *V.* Ditchford.

Ditchford, h., in Blockley, 3 m. N. of Moreton Henmarsh. 1046 *Dicford,* C. D. 804; D. *Dicford.* A. S. *dīc ford*—the ford of the dike or ditch (*v.* Ford). The pronunciation of *dīc* would be dike, dyche, and ditch, according to case and time. *V.* Digbeth.

Doddenhill, h., in Lindridge (1 m. NW. of). 1275 *Doddenhull* (3), S. R.; 13 c. *Dodenhull.* The *n* points to the gen. of the A. S. p. n. *Dodda*—Dodda's hill (M. E. *hull*). *V.* Dodenham.

Dodderhill, 1 m. NW. of Droitwich. 12 and 13 c. *Doderhull, Duderhull, Duderhul. Dodder* (M. E. *doder*) is a provincial name for certain choking or climbing weeds, such as *Cuscuta, Spergula arvensis, Polygonum convolvulus,* &c. Though not admitted into A. S. dictionaries, it is probably an A. S. word, as we find it here used in a popular sense in the 12 c.; otherwise we do not find it in our language before 1265. The name doubtless arises from the

locality, or some part of it, being infested by these weeds. The terminal *hull* is the M. E. form for hill. Many ancient words enshrined in pl. names are not recognized as A. S.

Dodderhill, in Hanbury. No early forms. *V.* Dodderhill, *ante.*

Doddingtree Hundred. D. *Dodintret,* frequently. The D. *-tret* represents an A. S. *trē*, tree. The original form would be *Doddantrē*—Dodda's tree, in allusion, probably, to some remarkable tree near his house, or bounding his property. Hundreds frequently take their names from trees, under or near which their courts were held. *V.* Dodford.

Dodenham, 7 m. W. of Worcester. D. *Dodeham*; 1275 *Dudeham*, S. R. *Doda, Dodda, Duda, Dudda, Dudde* are variants of an A. S. p. n.; and *Dode* is recorded in D. Assuming the name to be *Doda*, the *n* would form the gen. and give us 'the home of Doda' (*v.* Ham). Sometimes pronunciation preserves the right form of a name when its records are corrupt. *V.* Doddenhill.

Dodford, h., 2 m. NW. of Bromsgrove. 985 *Doddanford*, C. D. 651; 13 c. *Doddeford.* The early form is correct, and gives us the A. S. p. n. *Dodda*—Dodda's ford; *v.* Dodenham, and Ford. A priory was founded here, c. 1184, as a cell to Hales Abbey, vestiges of which remain.

Don, a common terminal, from *dūn, dūne*, a mountain, hill, 'down.' In Worcestershire pl. names it may usually be translated 'hill,' the county having no mountains and few downs. In M. E. it appears as *dūne, doune, doun. Dūn* is a common word in Celtic languages, whence the A. S. borrowed it.

Dordale Farm, Dordale Green, Dordale Brook, in Bellbroughton, on the head waters of the Doverdale river. In 1275 William *le Dur* was assessed to the subsidy. Two streams unite here. The prefix is a form of W. *dwfr, dwr*, water—water dale. *V.* Doverdale.

Dormston, 7½ m. SE. of Droitwich. 972 *Dēormōdes-eald-tune* (Dēormōd's old town), C. S. 1281; D. *Dormestun.* The shortening of the name between 972 and 1086, the date of D., is remarkable.

Dorn, h., in Blockley. 964 *Dorene,* C. S. 1135; 964 *Dorne,* C. S. 1134; 1275 *Dorne,* S. R. This is not an A. S. word, and is probably Celtic. There are several pl. names in Scotland commencing *Dorn-,* but none in England. I cannot deal with the meaning. Roman remains have been found here (O. M. 6 in.), and the Fossway (Exeter to Lincoln) passes through the manor.

Doverdale, 3½ m. NW. of Droitwich. 706 *Dourdale, Dourdæles,* C. S. 116; 817 *Doferdæl,* C. S. 360, 361; D. *Lunvredele.* The *Lun-* in D. form is a plain blunder of the scribe or copyist, and may be disregarded. *Dover* is C., and represents O. W. *dwfr,* I. and G. *dobhar* (*bh* = *v*), Cor. *dofer*—water. One may imagine a Briton and a Saxon trying to converse, and the Saxon inquiring, in his way, the name of a particular stream, is imperfectly understood; the Briton replies '*dwfr*' (water), which the Saxon accepts as the 'name.' Hence the number of rivers and hills with Celtic names, to which the Saxons often added a word of their own. The terminal is A. S. *dæl,* a dale, valley, giving us literally 'the valley of the water.' The name is borne not only by the locality, but by the stream which flows through it, a tributary of the Salwarp. Cp. Dover (A. S. *Dofer*), Wendover (*Wændofre*).

Drakelow, h., in Wolverley, is probably of A. S. origin, as the locality was well settled in early times. The absence of forms may be supplied from Drakelow in Derbyshire, which we find in 942 *æt Dracan hlawen*—at the Dragon's low (*v.* Low); and there can be no doubt that is the construction here. The A. S. were firm believers in demons, and spirits evil and good. In the Poem of Beowulf (supposed to have been written in the 8th c., describing

events in the 6th), Beowulf goes to the earth-cave to seek the Dragon, also termed the 'Serpent' (*wyrm*), and 'Fire-Drake' (*fyr draca*), who guards the buried treasures. After a fierce encounter both are slain. Shugborough (Staffordshire) and Shuckburgh (Warwickshire) mean 'the demon's hill,' or burial mound (A. S. *scucca* (*sc* = *sh*), a demon, evil spirit).

Drakes Broughton, *v.* Broughton.

Draycot, h., in Blockley. 1275 *Draycote*, S. R. There are over a hundred Draytons or Draycots in England, and yet the meaning of Dray- has never been settled. In all A. S. charters (and they are numerous) the form is *dræg-* (*g* = *y*). Now *dræge* is a drag, a drag-net, but 'the town, or cot, of the drag-net' seems an unlikely name for over a hundred places. Professor Skeat suggests that the root is A. S. (*ge*)*dræg*, which the dictionaries render 'a band, multitude,' but which is supposed to appear in modern garb as *Dray*, a squirrel's nest, also meaning, it is suggested, a retreat, nook, home; *v.* Skeat's Place-Names of Cambridgeshire, *s.* Drayton. I think the subject wants more light, but where is it to come from? It is noteworthy that, with one exception, the only terminals found in connexion with *Dray-* are *ton* and *cot*.

Draycot, h., in Kempsey, and on Severn. 1253 *Draycote*. *V.* Draycot, *ante*.

Drayton, h., in and 2 m. NE. of Chaddesley Corbett. 1275 *Drayton*, S. R. *V.* Draycot.

Drinkers End, h., in Eldersfield (1½ m. SE. of). In the S. R. for 1327 Walter '*le Drynkar*' was assessed at 12*d.*, sub Eldersfield. He has probably bequeathed his name to this place. *V.* End.

Droitwich. 716 *in wico emptoris salis quem nos Saltwich vocamus* ('in the place for the sale of salt which we call Saltwich'), C. S. 138; 888 *Saltwic*. A Witan (parliament) sat at Droitwich in this year, King Ethelred being present,

C. S. 557; 1017 *Sealtwic*, C. D. 1313; D. *Wich*, twenty-four times, once *Wiche*, once *Wic*; 12 c. *Wich*; 1347 *le Dryghtwych*; 1469 *Dertwyche*. 'Wich,' as here used, is quite another word to A. S. *wic*, *wice* (*v.* Wich), a dwelling, village, &c., and belongs to some other language, meaning a brine-spring. All salt-towns appear to end in *wich*; Nant*wich*, Middle*wich*, North*wich*, in Cheshire, and Shirley-*wich* in Staffordshire, are examples. Professor Skeat is of opinion that it is Norse, from *vīk*, a (small salt) creek or bay, and that the transition in sense from 'salt bay' to 'brine pit' is easy. That is the best explanation known to me, yet I wonder how a Norse word could have found its way into Worcestershire by the early part of the 8th c. As to *Droit*, Nash says it was not used till *after* Edward III's time, and I find it first on record in the twenty-first year of his reign. The meaning is very clear; it is an O. F. word applied, in finance, to 'a tax or custom duty' (Dict. Hist. of O. F. *s.* Droict and Droit). Now the A. S. kings derived a considerable revenue from Droitwich. D. tells us that Edward the Confessor used to have fifty-two pounds, and Earl Eadwine twenty-four pounds (more than £2,000 a year in present value) from the saltworks. King John agreed with the burgesses to take £100 a year from them, and this fee-farm rent got into the hands of private individuals, and is referred to in the I. P. M. centuries after John's days. The name 'Droit' was therefore appropriately conferred at a time when the necessity for distinctive names to be added to common ones became apparent. Its addition in Norman-French is not surprising, as it must be remembered that for about a hundred and fifty years prior to 1366 it was the language of our legal proceedings and Acts of Parliament. I therefore construe Droitwich as 'the salt town on which a special tax or customs duty was levied.'

Dudley. D. (1086) is the first record we have of Dudley,

though it must have been an important manor long before the Conquest. We there find it *Dudelei*; 13 c. *Duddelie*; 1275 *Duddleye*, S. R. *Dudda* was a common A. S. p. n., and historians, as usual, do not hesitate to say that the man who gave his name to Dudley was an 'Earl,' 'Duke,' &c.; but it is nonsense. There were princes and dukes of the name, and also monks, abbots, and boors. No one will ever know who *Dudda* was, but he certainly once lived, and Dudley was his lea land. *V.* Ley.

Dumbleton, h., in Lindridge. 1327 *Dumbleton*, S. R. *Dumble* is a dialectic word, of uncertain origin, meaning a shady dell or hollow, a dingle; it is probably M. E., as it is not found in our literature before 1589, nor in any A. S. charter; but the form is too late to rely upon. Dumbleton, in Gloucestershire, appears in 10th c. charters as *Dumolton*, *Dumeltan*, *Dumoltan*, *Dumbeltun*, and *Dumeltun*; and in D. as *Dubintone* and *Dunbentone*. But even these forms give little assistance, being too corrupt to identify. ('Perhaps *Dōmwulfes-tūn*, Dōmwulf's town; the *ō* would give mod. English *u*, *w* would drop before *u*, and *f* be lost between *l* and *s*.' Skeat.)

Dunclent, 3 m. E. of Kidderminster. D. *Dunclent*; always *Dunclent*. For the terminal, *v.* Clent. *Dun* is (in England) more frequently found as a terminal than as a prefix; in Ireland and Scotland (the word being Celtic as well as A. S.) it is a common prefix. It bears the same interpretation, whether prefix or terminal, and Dunclent must be construed Hill Clent, which looks like a pleonasm (*v.* Clent). The locality is somewhat hilly, and lies about 5 m. SW. of the Clent hills, which rise much higher. It is not unlikely that *dūn* may here be used in the sense of 'down.'

Dunhampstead, h., in Himbleton, 2½ m. SE. of Droitwich. 814 *Dunhamstyde*, C. S. 349; 972 *Dunhæmstede* (3), C. D. 260, 680; 1275 *Donhamshide*, S. R.; 1327 *Donam-*

stude, S. R. The first form is quite correct, and means 'Hill-home-stead' (*v.* Don and Ham).

Dunhampton, h., in Ombersley (2 m. N. of). 1275 *Dunhamptone, Dunhamtone,* S. R. Hill-home-town. The *p* is excrescent, the effect of accent falling on the *m* (*v.* Don, Ham, and Ton).

Dunley, h., in Arley Kings. Accepting present form, 'Hill lea' (*v.* Don and Ley).

Dunstall Farm (moated), **Dunstall Common,** in Earls Croome. All Dunstalls are corrupt forms of A. S. *tūn-steall,* an enclosed farmstead or cattle-yard; *t* and *d* frequently interchange.

Dur Bridge, Durbridge Mill, Dur Bridge Farm, in Redmarley d'Abitot. This looks like a survival of the W. word *dwr,* water; *v.* Doverdale.

Durrance, h., in Upton Warren. I think this is a p. n. In 1275 Robt. *Duran* (recte *Durand*) was living in Hanbury, the adjoining manor. Durand's would readily pass into 'Durance.' *Durand* was an A. S. name.

Eardiston, h., in Lindridge. 11 c. *Eardulfstune,* C. D. 952; 957 *Eardufestun,* C. S. 1007; D. *Ardolvestone. Eardwulf* was an A. S. p. n., and this is 'Eardwulf's town' (*v.* Ton).

Earls Croome, *v.* Croome (Earls).

Easinghope, h., in Doddenham. 1275 *Esighop',* S. R.; 1327 *Esynghope.* The terminal is *hope* (q.v.), a valley. The prefix represents the A. S. p. n. *Ese, Esi,* and the *ing* may be possessive or patronymic. It may be construed 'the valley of *Ese,*' or 'the valley of the descendants of *Ese*' (*v.* Ing). We have eight Easingtons, and an Easingwold, in England.

Easington Hall, in Longdon. 1327 *Estynton,* S. R. (At this time five families appear to have lived here.) 18 c. *Estington,* Nash, ii. 107. The forms are late, but show the

modern form to be corrupt. An A. S. *Eastinga-tun*—the town of the sons of Easton—appears the most likely interpretation.

Eastbury, h., in Hallow, 2 m. NW. of Worcester. 11 c. *Earesbyrig*, Hem. 257; D. *Eresbyrie*; 1275 *Esbury* (3), S. R.; 1347 *Esebury*; 18 c. *Estbury*. The terminal in the forms is the dat. of A. S. *burh*, an enclosed or fortified place; the prefix is a short form of some A. S. p. n., perhaps *Erefrith* or *Erewine*; but with the materials Eastbury can only be construed as Ere's *burh* (*v.* Bury).

Eastham, 4 m. NE. of Tenbury. D. *Estham*; 11 c. *Eastham*, Hem. 251; 1275 *Estham*, S. R. A. S. *ēast*, *ēst*, and *hām*—East home (or village) (*v.* Ham).

Eckington, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW. of Pershore. 972 *Eccyncgtune*, C. S. 1281; D. *Aichintune*; 14 c. *Ekington*, *Ekynton*. The first form points to an original *Eccinga-tūn*, 'the town of the descendants of Ecca' (*v.* Ing and Ton).

Edvin Loach, 12 m. NW. of Worcester. D. *Edevent*; 1327 *Yedefen*, S. R.; 18 c. *Yedfen*, *Yedefen Loges*. The 'de Loges' family held the manor in the 13 c., hence 'Loach.' The forms are corrupt, and their meaning can only be guessed. The D. *Edevent* is probably the nearest approach to the root, and it may represent the A. S. fem. p. n. *Ēadgifu*, which D. always records as *Edeva* or *Eddeva*; the D. *v* certainly represents an A. S. *f*. A pl. name composed of a p. n. only (i. e. without a suffix) is, however, excessively rare.

Egdon, h., in Stoulton. A probable original form would be *Ecgan-dūn*, Ecga's hill; *v.* Don. The tendency is always to brevity. Bescot, in Staffs., is all that is left of an original *Beorhtmundescot*. *V.* Egeoke.

Egeoke, three farms so named in Inkberrow (2 m. NE. of). 14 c. *Eggeoke*; 1332 *Edgok*; 1327 *Eghoke*, S. R.; 17 c. *Egioke*, *Egiock*. The forms are all M. E., and apparently represent an A. S. *Ecgan-āc*—Ecga's oak. The place gave name to an old Worcestershire family. *V.* Egdon.

Ei, Eie, *v.* Ey.

Elbury Hill, 1½ m. NE. of Worcester, in Claines (old fort). 16 c. *Elbury hill*; 1646 *Eldbury*. The forms are too late to be trusted, and conflict. If *Eld-* is accepted it might be a M. E. form of A. S. *eald*, old—Old burh (*v.* Bury).

Eldersfield, 7½ m. SW. of Upton-on-Severn. 972 *Yldres felde*, C. S. 1282; D. *Edresfelle*; 1275 *Eldresfelde*, S. R. A. S. *yldre*, elder—Elder's field (*v.* Field). 'Elders' is here used in the sense of 'elders of some ancient community.' It was not an A. S. p. n.

Elmbridge, h., 3½ m. N. of Droitwich. D. *Elmerige*; 13 c. *Elmrugge, Elmbrugge*; 1275 *Elmbrugge, Elmerigge*, S. R.; 1327 *Elmbrug'*, S. R. The original form would be *Elmehricg*, M. E. *Elmrugge*—Elmridge, probably from a ridge of hilly land studded with elms. The *b* is excrescent.

Elmley Castle, 4 m. SE. of Pershore. 764 *Elmlæh, Elmlea*, C. D. 1042; 780 *Elmlege*, C. S. 235; 1275 *Elmeleye*, S. R.; 1327 *Castel Elmeleye*, S. R.—'the Elm lea' (*v.* Ley). There was an early Norman castle here, destroyed after the attainder of the Earl of Warwick, 1471.

Elmley Lovett, 4 m. NW. of Droitwich. 780 *Elmlege*, C. S. 235; 1042 *Elmleah*, C. D. 764; D. *Ælmleia*; 1327 *Elmele Lovet*—'the Elm lea' (*v.* Ley). The Lovets were early Norman lords of the manor.

End, A. S. *ende*, has a variety of meanings, but in pl. names it means 'an extremity, place, or locality,' equivalent to *stow*, as in East end, West end, South end, world's end, the ends of the earth, &c. The use of the word in the sense indicated is very ancient (*v.* Bernes ende, C. S. 356, a. 816).

Evenlode, 3 m. NE. of Stow-on-the-Wold. 772 *Euulangelade*, C. S. 209; 772 *Eulangelade*, C. S. 210; *Eunlangeladæ, Eowlangelad*, C. S. 297; 777 *Eunlade*, C. S. 222; 969 *Eowlangelade, Eowlan gelade*, C. S. 1238; D. *Eunilade*; 1327 *Evenlode*, S. R. Evenlode is mentioned in several other A. S.

charters with an equal variety of spelling. The forms appear to conflict, but they are really consistent. There are two stems *Eowlan* (gen. of *Eowela*) and *gelāde*, later *lāde*, a ford or ferry—Eowela's ford. *V.* Evenlode River.

Evenlode River, tributary of the Thames. The ancient name was *Bladaen*, *Bladene*, *Blædene*, C. S. 139, 210, 222, and C. D. 623 (a. 718–979). Bledington, 4 m. SE. of Stow-on-the-Wold, and Bladon, 2 m. S. of Woodstock, being on its course, derive their names from it. It is probably a Celtic word, and I cannot interpret it. The change to Evenlode commenced in the tenth century, the manor of that name being on its head waters. Small rivers frequently change their names, great ones never.

Evesham. 709 *Homme, Eveshomme*, C. S. 124; 709 *Homme, Cronochomme*; 714 *Homme, Eouesham*, C. S. 130; 716 *Cronuchhomme*, C. S. 138; 854 *Ecguines hamme*, C. S. 482 (Ecgwine was first Abbot of Evesham, and third Bishop of Worcester, 693-717); 860 *Cronuchamme*, C. S. 511; afterwards *Eofeshamme*, *Eoveshame*, and similar forms in numerous other charters; D. *Eovesham.* The terminal *hamme, homme*, I construe as 'riverside meadow land.' I cannot justify this by our A. S. dictionaries, but certainly that was the meaning in Worcestershire, such lands on Severn and Avon being called 'hams' to this day, especially at the bend of a river, and Evesham is almost enclosed by the Avon; *v.* H. E. D. *s.* Ham, *sb.*[2] *Cronuc-*, evidently the ancient name, I can make nothing of; it is probably Celtic. *Eof*, who gave name to Evesham, was Bishop Ecgwine's herdsman, and Ecgwine tells us (C. S. 130) that the Virgin first appeared to Eof, and afterwards to himself, with two maidens attending her, and holding a book; which Ecgwine construed into a command to erect a monastery on the spot. It is curious that Pope Constantine, in his letter authorizing the foundation of the Abbey (C. S. 129), says nothing about the appearance of the Virgin. The monastery however was

built, and well endowed by pious kings, and the locality, after some fluctuations, settled down to *Eofeshamme*. The A. S. had no *v*, that letter being introduced by the Normans.

Ey, Eye, Ei, Eie, are M. E. or late forms of A. S. *ig*, an island, and are common terminals; but the word meant originally (*a*) land completely surrounded by water, (*b*) almost surrounded, (*c*) land begirt by marsh, or subject to flood; and it is mainly found in pl. n. under *b* and *c*. Great care is required to distinguish the late forms from A. S. *ēa*, running water, stream; and it is sometimes impossible to do so. ('O. Merc. *ēg*, A. S. *īg*, *īeg*, *ȳg*; the O. Merc. *ēg* is early. It is a derivative, with mutation, of *ēa*, stream; as the umlaut of A. S. *ēa* is A. S. *īe*. The added *-g* is a mere *-y*; whence M. E. *ēy*.' Skeat.)

Eymore Wood, 4 m. NW. of Kidderminster. This is a great wood, approximately a mile square, bounded on the W. by the Severn, which here contains an island. I think the prefix is A. S. *ig*, *iege* (*g*=*y*), M. E. *eye*, *ey*, an island, and *mōr*, a moor (*v*. More)—Island moor. Eymore Farm adjoining is moated. I think the ancient name of this wood was *Moerheb*. A charter of 736, C. S. 154, relating to 'the province of old called Husmere' (*v*. Ismere), says (translated):—'The abovesaid estate is round about the river (Stour) on both sides, having on the northern side the wood called *Cynibre* (Kinver Forest), and on the west another wood called *Moerheb*.' This description quite accords with Eymore Wood. It must be remembered that the old meaning of wood was 'land in a wild state,' not necessarily timbered. *Moerheb* is probably a Celtic word in corrupt form; I do not know its meaning, but *Moer-* may represent the *-more* of Eymore.

Fairfield, h., **Fairfield Court** (moated), in Bellbroughton (2 m. E. of). 816 *Forfeld*, C. S. 360; 1275 *Forfelde*, S. R. A. S. *for*, fore (in front of)—Fore field (*v*. Ton). Many

places are named after their situations in relation to other places; *v.* Norton, Sutton, Aston, Weston, Overton, Netherton, Otherton. We have five 'Fortons' in England. Cp. *Fore* Street, London, E. C., and Abbey *Fore*gate in Shrewsbury.

Farley Farm, Great Farley Wood, Little Farley Wood, in Romsley, Halesowen. 1415 *Farley Grange*, Lyt. Ch.; belonged to the Abbey of Halesowen. Earlier forms would probably give us *Fearnleah* (pron. Farnley). This is the root of all Farleys I have been able to trace. The *n* would have a tendency to drop out; but it survives in 'Farnley,' of which we have several examples. I do not doubt the meaning is 'Fern lea' (*v.* Ley, and Grange).

Fastochesfelde, an unrecognized D. berewick (outlying farm) of the manor of Kidderminster. *Fastoch* may represent the unrecorded masc. p. n. *Fastuc*, gen. *Fastuces*, formed by means of the diminutive or pet suffix *-uc*, from *Fæst-*, a recorded name-forming stem, familiar in Fastolf (whence Falstaff), earlier *Fæstwulf*; *felde* = field (q. v.).

Feckenham, 7 m. SE. of Droitwich. 804 *Feccanhom*, C. S. 313; 957 *Feccan ham*, C.S. 1006; D. *Fecheham*; 1275 *Fekkenham*, S. R. *Fecca* was an A. S. p. n., of which *Feccan* would be the gen. A variant form would be *Fec(c)*, gen. *Fecces*. Hence in A. S. charters we find *Feccanham*, 'the home of Fecca,' and *Fecces-wudu*, Fec(c)'s wood. The name appears in D. as *Feche* (*ch* = *k*), *Fech*, and *Feg*. The terminal *hom*, in the first form, gives us 'the meadow land of Fecca,' and I have no doubt that is the correct form and construction. *V.* Ham.

Feld, Felt, *v.* Field.

Feldon Lane, in Warley-Wigorn. *Felden, Feldon* is a M. E. word (dat. pl. of *feld*), meaning 'field land, open country,' as opposed to woodland. *V.* Field.

Fell Mill Farm, in Shipston-on-Stour, on the Stour river. A fell-mill is a mill where the business of a fellmonger is, or

has been, carried on. A fellmonger is a dealer in hides or skins with the hair or wool on.

Fepston, h., in Himbleton. 956 *Fepsetnatūne*, C. S. 937; D. *Fepsetenatun*; 1108 *Fepsintune*; 1275 *Fepsintone*, S. R. Commonly spelt 'Phepson,' but *ph* was not used in O. E. The *setena* may be rejected; it represents the gen. pl. of *sætan*, settlers, from *sittan*, to sit, settle down; it is often introduced into pl. names in A. S. charters, but wore away by phonetic decay. I cannot translate *Fep-*; it has no meaning in A. S., and, I think, represents a p. n., though I cannot find one anything like it. It is curious that there is no word in O. E. or Mod. E., or any pl. n., commencing *Fep-* or *Phep-*, except this place.

Ferdstræte. *Up to cynges ferdstræte* (*fyrdstræte*) (king's military way) is the name given to the road from Stow-on-the-Wold to the Rollright Stones, Banbury and Chipping Norton, passing through Daylesford, C. D. 623. The same road, in its passage through Addlestrop, adjoining Daylesford, is called 'ad regiam stratam de Norhampton,' the king's street to Northampton, via Banbury, and a well-known road called Banbury Lane leading to Northampton, via Fosters Booth, C. D. 13.

Fernhill Heath, h., 4 m. NE. of Worcester. 1275 *Fernhull* (3), S. R. A common name, doubtless from the growth of fern in the locality. A. S. *fearn*, and *hyl*, M. E. *hull*.

Field, Feld, Felt, common terminals from A. S. *feld*, a field; in pl. names not an enclosure as we now understand it, but a plain, open, unenclosed country, as opposed to woodland; an expanse.

Finstall, h., in Bromsgrove. 14 c. *Fynchale*. *Finch*, *Fynch* is not recorded as an A. S. p. n., but it became a family name in the 13 c. The prefix may represent the name, or the bird, A. S. *finc* (*c* = *ch*); the terminal may be construed 'meadows.'

Fladbury, 3 m. E. of Pershore. 691 *Fledanburg*, C. S.

76; 714 *Fladeburi*, C. S. 131; 778 *Flædanbyrg*, C. S. 238; 780 *Fledanburh*, C. S. 235; 821 *Fledanburh, Fledanbyrig*, C. S. 368; D. *Fledebirie*; 1108 *Fledebyri*. ('*Fledan* represents the gen. of a masc. weak form *Flǣda*, pet form of the p. n. *Flǣd-beorht*, the only recorded name beginning with *Flǣd-*.' Skeat.) This is therefore Flæd's, or Flædbeorht's, *burh*; *v.* Bury. Nicknames, pet and short names, were common with the A. S. The charters of 691 and 714 refer to a monastery here.

Flavell Flyford, 6½ m. NE. of Pershore. 930 *Fleferth*, C. D. 346; 972 *Flæferth*, C. D. 570; 1002 *Fleferht*, C. D. 1295; not in D.; 12 c. *Flavel*; 13 c. *Flavell*; 14 c. *Flavell, Flavel, Fleford, Fleyford*; 15 c. *Flauell* (*u* = *v*); 16 c. *Flyford, Fleford, Flyford Flavell* (three times); 17 c. *Fleforth, Fliford, Flyford, Flyvord, Flyford Flavell* (frequently); 18 c. *Flaford, Flyford Flavell*. The forms show that 'Flavell' and 'Flyford' both represent the A. S. forms, and are pleonasms. In the 16 c., being evidently puzzled by the varying forms, the scribes unite the two common ones—hence the double name with one meaning. But the charters of 930, 972, and 1002 are only late copies, and their forms, as written, have no meaning in A. S. The prefixes look like a p. n. commencing *Flæd-* (*v.* Fladbury), and the terminals may represent A. S. *ford* (q. v.), but it is 'guess,' and the later forms do not help. Nash, i. 455, says: 'It (Flavell) . . . hath lately had the additional name of Flyford, from the brook which giveth name to Grafton Flyvord,' the adjoining manor; but he is wrong, as 'Flyford Flavell' was so written two hundred years before his time, and the stream between the two manors was, and is, the 'Piddle,' q. v.

Fockbury, h., 1 m. NW. of Bromsgrove. D. *Focheberie*; 1300 *Fokbury*. The forms point to an A. S. p. n. *Focca*, not recorded, but probably a late form of *Focga*, a known name. I read it 'Focga, or Focca's, *burh*.' *V.* Bury.

Ford, a common terminal, from A. S. *ford*, a road or passage through a stream, irrespective of its size. In A. S. charters a road to a man's house which crosses a rivulet is frequently called So-and-So's 'ford.'

Foreign, *v.* Borough.

Forhill, h., **Forhill Ash,** and **Forhill Farm,** in Kingsnorton (S. of). The prefix is probably *Fore*—'in front of' (*v.* Fairfield), but without early forms the construction can only be guess.

Fossway (The), Roman road from Exeter to Lincoln, via Bath, Cirencester, Moreton-Henmarsh, High Cross, Leicester, and Newark, is mentioned in numerous A. S. charters as *Fos* and *Foss*. These words are not generally admitted into A. S. dictionaries, though repeatedly found in charters in connexion with this road; they were borrowed from L. *fossa*. The road was probably so named in allusion to the fosses or ditches on the sides, as customary in Roman ways.

Four Shire Stone, 1½ m. E. of Moreton-Henmarsh, marking the bounds of the counties of Worcester, Gloucester, Warwick, and Oxford. The locality is mentioned in C. S. 1238, a. 969 (translated), 'From *Gild beorh* along Salt Street to the stone, from the stone to the second stone, thence also to the third stone, and to the fourth stone.' There is now only a modern four-sided pillar, nine feet high, marking the boundary. Gildbeorh (now I think unknown) is recorded in D. as *Ildeberga*; the *I* arises, as elsewhere in D., from the absorption of the semi-vowel *y*, represented by the *G*, into the following vowel. About 1100 it is mentioned as *Gildene beorh*, and as the scene of a 'gemot' and court of the four shires.

Four Stones (The), on Clent Hills. These are said to have been set up by George, Lord Lyttelton, before 1773, in imitation of a Druidical monument. They came out of a quarry in Hagley Park (Amphlett's Hist. of Clent, 164).

Foxcote, h., in Oldswinford. 1275 *Foxcote*, S. R.—Fox cot. *Cote* is here used in the sense of cover or hole; cp. Sheep-cote. It is a common name often appearing as Foscott. *Fox* was not an A. S. p. n. It became a family name in the 13 c., originally a nickname.

Fox Hollies, f., in Yardley. 1275 *Adam atte Holies*; 1327 *Rich*^{d} *de Holies*, S. R. *Holies* is a M. E. pl. form of 'holly.' 'Fox' seems to be a modern addition.

Fox Lydiate, h., 2 m. W. of Redditch. 1300 '*and thence to Fox huntley yates, and along Fox huntwey, commonly called Rugwey, to Smethhedley*' (Per. of Feckenham Forest); 1377 *Foxhunt Ledegate*. A. S. *hlidgeat*, M. E. *lidyate*, *lidgget*, and other forms, are common in pl. names, and mean a back gate, a gate set up between meadow or pasture and plough land, or across a highway to keep in cattle. The meaning here is 'the Fox-hunters' gate.'

Franche, h., 1 m. NW. of Kidderminster. D. *Frenesse* (berewick of Kidderminster); 1275 *Frenes*, *Freynes* (2), S. R. This is a curious case. The name is O. F. *fresne*, ash-tree. The D. scribe (probably a Norman) apparently knew what he was writing, for *-esse* is the D. representative of A. S. *æsce*, an ash (tree), and he therefore writes the name both in N. F. and A. S. to the best of his lights. The forms of 1275 are correct, but in the plural (ashes). In the S. R. of 1346 a Peter de *Franche* is assessed for lands near Bromsgrove, so it would seem the present form of the name became settled between 1275 and 1346.

Frankley, 6 m. NE. of Bromsgrove. D. *Franchlie* (*ch* = *k*); 12 c. *Frankle*, *Franckleye*, *Frankeleg*. *Franca* was an A. S. p. n., gen. *Francan*, probably derived, originally, from the national name of the Franks, who, it is supposed, derived it from their national weapon, A. S. *franca*, a javelin. The gen. *an* is represented by the *e* of the 12 c. *Franke-*, and the D. form should, correctly, have been *Franchelie*. The meaning is Franca's lea (*v.* Ley).

Frisland, h., 1 m. E. of Tibberton; **Frieze Wood,** in Madresfield. *Fris-*, *Frieze* represent *furze*. The *r* has a tendency to shift, sometimes preceding, sometimes following the vowel. The meaning is land productive of furze or gorse. The name is generally found on the outskirts of old commons.

Frith Farm, in Kyre Magna; **Frith Common,** in Lindridge. M. E. *frith*, a wood—Wood farm.

Frog Mill, Frog Mill Farm, in Frankley. 1373 *Froggemulle* (mill), Lyt. Ch.; **Frog Mill,** in Inkberrow; **Frogsmarsh,** in Pendock. *Frog-* plays a conspicuous part in pl. names; Frog Mill, Froghall, Frogden (valley), Froggatt (*yate*, road), Frogwell, Frogpool, Frognall, Frogham, Frogmore, are common names. It is beyond doubt that A. S. *frogga*, a frog, is referred to; but it is curious that our forefathers should take so much notice of an unlovable little creature as to name numerous localities after him (*v.* Froxmore).

Froxmore Court, Froxmore Farm, in Crowle. 1275 *Froxmere*, S. R.; 1327 *Froxemere*, S. R. A. S. *frox* and *frogga*, both meaning a frog, and *mere*, a pool, give us Frog pool. *V.* Frog Mill, *ante*.

Furlong is a common word in pl. names. It is A. S. *furlang*, compound of *furh lang*—furrow long, the length of a furrow in the common fields. It implies no specific quantity, and would be large or small according to the area of parallel ploughing.

Gannow Wood, Gannow Farm (moated), ancient estate in Inkberrow. 14 and 15 c. *Gannowe*. In mediaeval records this appears as a 'manor.' It is not in D., and must therefore have become manorial after 1086 and before 1290, when the statute of 'Quia Emptores' was passed to prevent the creation of new manors. There is (or was in 1343) an

estate called 'Gannowe' in Holme Lacy, Herefordsh., and there is a 'Gannow' in Whalley, NE. Lancash. I cannot interpret it.

Genners Farm, in Northfield. Thomas le *Gynur* and Adam le *Gynnur* were living in Northfield in 1275 (S. R.); and J. de *Jenners* was living there in 1603 (S. R.). *Gynur* is an aphetic form of M. E. *engynour*—engineer, i.e. one who manages engines of war.

Gig Mill, h., in Stourbridge. 'Gig' is the machine by which the shag or nap is raised upon blankets and other cloth. Gig Mill is commonly applied to the building in which the machine is worked.

Gilbertstone, mansion and grounds in Yardley, lies on the boundary of the counties of Worcester and Warwick. There is an ancient stone here marking the boundary. Adam Gilbert, two Ranulph Gilberts, and Robert Gilbert were living in Yardley in 1275, S. R. Gilbert is only a form of the A. S. p. n. *Gislbeorht*—bright (or cheerful) hostage.

Gladder Brook, in Rock. 1275, 1332, 1340 *Gloddre.* Not, I think, an A. S. word; perhaps W.

Glasshampton, h., in Astley. D. *Glese.* I cannot translate *Glese*, or make any useful suggestion about it. *Hāmtūn*, home town, seems to have been added to the name after the Conquest.

Gleden, brook, in Warndon. 978 *Glæden*, C. D. 618. A. S. *glædene* is glossed by Sweet 'iris, gladiolus' (Bosworth-Toller omits the word); but I think Sweet is wrong, and that the E. D. D. is right in rendering Gladdon, Gladden, as 'coarse marsh grass, bulrushes, especially the greater reed-mace and the lesser bulrush'; these plants may have flourished on some part of the stream.

Glynch Brook, runs into Leadon near Newent. 963 *Glences*, *Glencing*, C. S. 1109; 10 c. *Glencincg*, C. S. 1281; 972 *Glencincg*, C. S. 1282. The forms appear to be A. S.; but I cannot make anything of them.

Golafers, an ancient estate in Eckington; belonged to the 'Golafers,' a 14 c. landowning family here, progenitors of the Russells of Strensham (Nash, ii. 180).

Goldicote (Lower), Goldicote (Upper), in Alderminster. 1275 *Caldicote,* S. R. = Cold cot (A. S. *æt Caldan cote*). Initial *G* and *C* frequently interchange (*v.* Calcott).

Goosehill Green (Upper and Lower), **Goosehill Farms, Goosehill Wood,** in Hanbury. 'Above *Goshull* lay a common, free for all men of the country, whether bond or free, for their cattle, &c., as appears by the Bishops' register' (Nash, i. 549). M. E. *Gōshull* = Goose hill.

Gorse Hill, in Bromsgrove (1½ m. NE. of). 1275 *Gorsthale* (2), S. R. *Gorst* is a M. E. form of *gorse*; here I translate *hale* as 'meadow land' (*v.* Hale) = Gorsey meadow.

Gospel Farm, in Yardley, lies on the boundary of Yardley and Solihull, and of the counties of Warwick and Worcester;—a place where the Gospel was read on perambulations. Cp. Pulpit Oak, in Berrington, and many 'Gospel Oaks.'

Grafton Flyford, 7 m. E. of Worcester. 884 *Graftune,* C. S. 552; 972 *Graftune,* C. S. 1281; D. *Garstone* (an evident mistake); 1275 *Graftone,* S. R.; 14 c. *Grafton sub Flavell. V.* Grafton Manor, and Flavell Flyford.

Grafton Manor, 2 m. SW. of Bromsgrove. D. *Grastone*; 1275 *Grafton,* S. R. The *s* in the D. form is a mistake for *f,* those letters in A. N. being so much alike as to be frequently mistaken (*v.* Cofton Hacket). This is 'Grovetown,' A. S. *grāftūn* (*v.* Ton).

Grange (The), f., in Kingsnorton (1 m. SW. of). *c.* 1540 *The Graunge*; belonged to the Abbey of Bordesley. This word was introduced to our language about 1300 from the French *graunge.* It meant originally a granary,

barn, but came to be applied to outlying farms, especially those belonging to monasteries and manorial lords.

Grange (The), 1 m. S. of Alvechurch. This is probably one of the Granges formerly belonging to the Abbey of Bordesley, and frequently mentioned in the charters relating to the Abbey. *V.* Grange, *ante.*

Grange Farm, in Lutley, Halesowen, belonged to the Abbey of Halesowen. *V.* Grange, *ante.*

Great Farley, *v.* Farley.

Greet, h., **Greet Hill, Greet Common,** in Yardley, all adjacent and on a stream. 1275 *Grete, Grethurst,* S. R.; 1332 *Gretehurste*; 1340 *Grete. Greta* and *Greet* are common river names, and I think these places take their name from the stream. The word must be Celtic, as it prevails in Scotland and the North of England; I cannot interpret it.

Grimes Hill, 1½ m. NE. of Withall; **Grimes Hill,** in Kingsnorton (1275 *Grimesput* (pit), S. R.); **Grimscote,** near Alderminster. *Grim* was a common A. S. p. n., but it also meant a spectre, goblin, or evil spirit, and we cannot tell in what sense we ought here to read the word. Grimes Dyke, Grimes Graves, Grimsditch, are prehistoric earthworks, and the probability is that supernatural agency in their construction is referred to. *V.* Grimspits.

Grimley, 5 m. N. of Worcester. 851 *Grimanleage,* C. S. 462; 852 *Grimanlege,* C. S. 462; 957 *Grimanhylle,* C. S. 993; 964 *Grimanlæge,* C. S. 1134; D. *Gremanhill.* The prefix is clearly the A. S. p. n. *Grima,* gen. *Griman*—Grima's lea (*v.* Ley). The terminal at first oscillated between 'hill' and 'lea.'

Grimspits, h. and farm in Kingsnorton (1½ m. S. of). 1275 *Grymesputt, Grimesput,* S. R. *V.* Grimes Hill. M. E. *putt* = pit, favours the construction of an apparition. Goblins Pit, Bug Hole, are not uncommon names. ('Bug' means

a goblin, and Coverdale's Bible, 1535, uses the word in that sense.)

Guarlford, h., in Great Malvern. 1275 *Garleford* (2), S. R.; 1288 *Garleforde*. I cannot interpret *Garle-* or *Guarl-*; both forms are corrupt. For the terminal *v.* Ford.

Gumborn Farm, in Grimley. A. S. p. n. *Gumbeorn* (*guma*, a man; *beorn*, a warrior). The name appears in the S. R. of 1275 in Hallow and other places, and in 1327 in Warndon, as *Gumbern* and *Gumbarn*.

Gyting, a stream in Cutsdean, giving name to Temple Guiting. 974 *Gytincges æwylme*, *Gytinc*, *Gytinges*, C. S. 1299, Hem. 348. A. S. *gyte*, 'a pouring out, flood,' *gēotan*, to pour out, flood, are probably the root; *æwylme*, spring.

Habberley, h., 1½ m. W. of Kidderminster. D. *Harburgelei*. A. S. fem. p. n. *Hereburh*, gen. *Hereburge*—Hereburh's lea (*v.* Ley).

Hadsor, 1½ m. S. E. of Droitwich. 11 c. *Headdes ofre*, Hem. 263; D. *Hadesore*; 1275 *Haddesovere*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Headd* and *ōfer*, a border, bank, used in connexion with a p. n., in the sense of 'property,' 'belonging to.'

Hagley, 3 m. S. of Stourbridge. D. *Hageleia*; 12 c. *Hageleg*; 13 c. *Haggaley*, *Huggeley*. *Hag* is an O. N. word meaning an enclosure, a wooded enclosure; *v.* H. E. D. *s.* Hag, *sb.*[2] This may be read 'the wooded enclosure on or near the lea' (*v.* Ley). There seems to have been some Norse settlement or influence in this locality; *v.* Clent, which adjoins, and is also Norse.

Hailstone Farm, in Blockley. A. S. *hagol-stān* (*g* = *y*), hailstone. Our ancestors probably supposed erratic boulders to be meteoric. Cp. Hailstone f., in Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Halac, an unrecognized D. manor in Doddingtree Hundred.

12 c. *Halac* (Hist. of Worcestersh., i. 329 b). I think it lay near Rock.

Hale. This common terminal is usually treated as a form of A. S. *heall*, a hall, or principal dwelling; but it seems also to be a form of A. S. *healh*, Mercian *halh*, dat. *healе*, Mercian *hale*, which Bosworth-Toller gives as 'a word of doubtful meaning'; but it appears to be used in A. S. charters in the sense of meadow or pasture land. Kemble (C. D.) always construes it 'hall'; but it is clear that many pl. names now ending in 'hale' or 'hall' refer to meadow land. *Rischale*, now Rushall, cannot mean a hall built of rushes; it is more likely to mean 'rushy meadow or pasture'; *Fearnhealas* cannot mean Fern halls, but may reasonably be read 'ferny meadows,' and *Hǣthhalan* is more likely to mean 'heathy meadows' than 'heath halls.' Mr. Henry Bradley (one of the Editors of the H. E. D.) writes: 'The word *healh* seems to mean waterside pasture. It is a frequent element in local names, though it has almost escaped recognition by etymologists, as the names in which it occurs are usually referred to *hall* or *hill*.' Places now named Halloughton, Houghton, Halton, and like forms, when traced to A. S. roots represent an original *Healhtūn*. In the absence of evidence or inference to the contrary I construe *hale* as 'hall.' Professor Skeat says: 'A special application of it (*hale*) was a nook of land at the bend of a river, or a piece of flat alluvial land; hence a sheltered spot' (Place-Names of Hertfordshire, 29); and elsewhere: 'The sense is nook, recess, retreat, corner, covert, &c. . . . But I do not object to Bradley's explanation of "*waterside* pasture." I think that is just it—a nook or enclosure between a river and a hill, which would well serve for pasture, if it had grass on it. I do not think *hale* can well be "hall"; because *hall* has *two l's*, both essential.'

Halesowen. D. *Halas*; later *Hales*; 1276 *Hales-Owayn*; 1286 *Halesowen*; 1340 *Hales-Oweyn*; later *Hales*,

and *Halesowen*. *Hale* or *Hales* is a pl. form of A. S. *healh*, which A. S. dictionaries translate a 'corner,' Kemble a 'hall,' and Bosworth-Toller 'a word of doubtful meaning'; but its frequent use in charters is in the sense of meadow or pasture land. *Halas* is a dat. pl. form of the word. Hale, Hales, Hailes, are names borne by more than a score places in England; we have also Sheriff Hales, Drayton in Hales, Betton in Hales, and similar forms too numerous to mention. In the Worcestershire Subsidy Rolls for 1275 and 1327 there are over thirty names recorded as *-de la Hale*, *-en la Hale*, *-atte Hale*, *-in the Hale*, all meaning 'in the meadows'; but 'meadow' or 'leasow,' though common M. E. words, are not once used in the Rolls. I therefore translate *Hales* as 'meadows,' and this accords with the situation of the manor. There is an old estate here called 'The Leasowes' (A. S. *læsu*), only another word for low-lying meadow land. The terminal *-owen* was attached in consequence of the marriage, in 1174, of Emma, sister of Henry II, to David ap Owen, Prince of North Wales. Hales then belonged to the Crown; Henry gave it to his sister in frankmarriage, and she was succeeded by her son Owen.

Hall Green, in Yardley, probably takes its name from Broom Hall (q. v.) which adjoins.

Hallow, 3 m. NW. of Worcester. 816 *Heallingan*, *Halhegan*, *Hal hagan*, *Halheogan*, C. S. 356; 963 *Hallege*, C. S. 1110 and 1135; D. *Halhegan*; 1275 *Hallauwe*, S. R. This manor was given by Coenwulf, king of the Mercians, to the Bishop of Worcester in 816; but many of these 'grants' are mere confirmations of title, and the bishop may have held it long before. The forms are early, but conflicting. The prefixes probably represent A. S. *heall*, a hall or palace (possibly of the bishop), but the terminals cannot be reconciled. The name is unique. The charter of 816 mentions a 'Salt street' and a 'Portway' here.

Ham. This common terminal is usually derived from A. S. *hām*, home, a dwelling; but many places now ending in *ham* derive that part of their name from A. S. *hamm*, *homm*, riverside meadow (*v.* Ham, *b*).

Ham, *b*. This name is commonly applied in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire to land on the sides of Severn, Teme, and Avon liable to flood. The A. S. forms are *homm* and *hamm*. These 'hams' are generally in bends of the river, and it is probable that these bends have some connexion with the name, our word *ham* (the thigh and buttock collectively) having similar old forms, originally meaning 'crooked'; *v.* H. E. D. *s.* Ham, *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2] There is a tract of land, 3 m. NW. of Bingham in Notts, on a bend of the Trent, called 'The Hams.'

Ham Castle, in Clifton-on-Teme. D. *Hamme*; 1332 *Homme Castle*; later *Homme, Home, Hamme*. Is situated on Teme side in a bend of the river. *V.* Ham, *b*.

Ham Court, 2 m. S. of Upton-on-Severn, on Severn side, and at a bend of the river. *V.* Ham, *b*.

Ham Green, h., 1½ m. N. of Feckenham. 1332 *Home*, S. R. *Ham* is here used in the sense of riverside meadow land (*v.* Ham, *b*). This place is on a substantial stream.

Hampstall Ferry, in Hartlebury. Hamp*stead* is a common name, but Ham*stall* comparatively rare; cp. Hamstall Ridware, Staffs., and Hamstalls, on Severn, 2 m. SE. of Newnham. A. S. *hām*, home; *steall*, place, stead, stall (for cattle), also 'fishing ground.' Being on Severn the word is perhaps used in the last sense. Severn runs straight here, so that *Ham-* is not to be read in the sense of Ham, *b*.

Hampton, 1 m. SW. of Evesham. 714 *Hantun*, C. S. 130; 780 *Heantune*, C. S. 235; *Heamtun*, and *Hantone*, 10 and 11 c.; D. *Hantun*. In A. S. this would appear, correctly, as *æt Hēantune*, i. e. High town (*v.* Ton). Many Hamptons have been originally *Hēantūn*. D. always writes *Han-* for *Hēan-*; hence the tendency to 'Hamton.'

Hampton Lovet, 1½ m. NW. of Droitwich. 714 *Hamtona juxta Wiccium* (Hamtum near (Droit)wich), C. S. 134; 781 *Homtune*, C. S. 239, 241; 817 *Hamtun*, C. S. 360, 361; D. *Hamtune*. This is a plain case of an original *Hāmtūn* = home town (*v.* Ham, and Ton). The *p* is excrescent, the effect of accent falling on the *m*.

Hamton. The number of *-hamtons*, with a prefix, in Ombersley and Astley is remarkable. The following survive:—Brookhampton, Comhampton, Dunhampton, Glasshampton, Hillhampton, Northampton, Oakhampton, Solhampton, Sytchampton, Uphampton, Woodhampton, Yarhampton; and the following have disappeared from the maps: Oleshampton (1275 S. R.), Poughamton in Hartlebury (1275 S. R.), Sardhamton and Sevehamton in Astley (1275 S. R.), and Herhampton in Ombersley (1275 S. R.). It looks as if *hāmton* had come to mean a farmstead, for the places named above could have been only farms.

Hanbury, 4 m. E. of Droitwich. 691 *Heanburg*, C. S. 75; 757 *Heanburh*, *Hanbiri*, C. S. 220; 796 *Heanbyrig*, C. S. 272; 831 *Heanbyrig* (*g* = *y*), C. S. 416: this charter refers to a monastery here; D. *Hambyrie*; 1275 *Hambury*, S. R. Plainly High *Burh* (*v.* Bury), A. S. *æt Hēan byrig* (dat.).

Hanger-, Hunger-, Hungry Hill. Exs. **Hanging Wood,** near Tenbury, **Hanging Grove,** in Hanley Child (both on hillsides sloping to a stream); **Alderhanger Farm, Alderhanger Wood,** in Besley; **Hunger Hill,** Henley in Arden; **Hungry Hill,** near Stourbridge; **Honger Grove,** in Puddleston; **Hungry Hill,** in Cleobury Mortimer. A. S. *hangra*, a hanging wood, i. e. a wood growing on a hillside. Most of our A. S. dictionaries are wrong on this word, for lack of observation; *aspen-hangra*, *thorn-hangra*, *hasle-hangra*, Oakhanger, Timberhanger, have obvious meanings. The subject is fully dealt with in 'Anecdota Oxoniensia,' Early

Charters, 134. Hunger-, Hungry-, Hungary-, are 'interpretative corruptions.' Cp. Lightwoods.

Hangman's Hill, on Malvern Hills, near the Herefordshire Beacon. The road leading to this is called Hangman's Lane. It denotes the locality where the gallows formerly stood pertaining to the Forest of Malvern (Nash, i. 557). All offences committed within a forest, whether against the forest laws or the common law, were triable by the forest courts, and a gallows was therefore appurtenant. The Courts were held at Hanley Castle. The forest laws were severe, but very mercifully executed. I do not believe that any man ever lost life or limb for any offence against them. Every judgement I have met with has been a fine, often followed by 'but he is pardoned because he is poor,' or 'because he is a minstrel,' or 'at the intercession of the bishop,' &c. The gallows would be for common law offenders. Historians write glibly of men's lives being taken for killing the king's deer, but they never give us a reference to authority. Every schoolboy is taught how the Conqueror destroyed churches and villages to form the New Forest; but they are all recorded in Domesday, and all exist to this hour. William was too good a churchman, and too wise, to do such things.

Hanley Castle, 2 m. NW. of Upton-on-Severn. D. *Hanlie, Hanlege*; 1275 *Hanley*, S. R. There was a mediaeval castle here, of which no traces remain, except the site. The Assizes were held here in 1212, and the Courts for the Forest of Malvern were also regularly held at Hanley. It is A. S. *æt Hēan leage* (dat.) (*g* = *y*)—High lea (*v.* Ley).

Hanley William or **Upper Hanley, Hanley Child** or **Nether Hanley,** 5 m. SE. of Tenbury. 817 *Heanley*, C. S. 360, 361; D. *Hanlege*; 1275 *Childrehanle, Hanlee Wyllame*; 1332 *Chylderne-Henley*, S. R. In pure A. S. this would be *Hēan leage* (dat.)—High lea (*v.* Ley). 'William' and 'Child' are M. E. additions to distinguish these places from other Hanleys; 'William' is probably the one rated in the S. R.

of 1275; 'Child' perhaps means a person of that name, but *Childre* and *Chylderne* are gen. plural forms, meaning 'of children,' i.e. 'of young men,' so it is doubtful. 'Child' was formerly applied to young men of gentle birth, as a kind of title—generally in poetry.

Harberrow, h., in Hagley, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of Kidderminster. 12 c. *Hardberwe*; 13 c. *Herdeberue*; 1275 *Herdeberewe*, S. R. The forms represent an A. S. *hierdan-beorge*, the herdsman's hill or burial mound (*v.* Barrow). *Berewe* is a M. E. form of *beorge*, and *er* was pronounced *ar*. *V.* Hardwick.

Harcomb Wood, in Evenlode, lies on the bounds of Evenlode and Adlestrop, and of the counties of Worcester and Gloucester. A. S. *Hār-cumb*, boundary valley (*v.* Hoarstone and Combe).

Harcourt (High) Farm, in Clent, stands on the old county boundary of Worcestershire and Salop, and on the boundary of Clent and Halesowen. The terminal is corrupt, 'court' being a M. E. word derived from the French, and the prefix A. S.; it is more likely to have been *cote*, a cottage (*v.* Badge Court). *Har-* means 'boundary' (*v.* Hoarstone).

Hardwick, h., in Breedon. 14 c. *Herdwyke*; 1327 *Herdewyke*, S. R.—'the herdsman's dwelling'; *v.* Hardwick, *post.*

Hardwick Green, Hardwick Court, in Eldersfield ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of); **Hardwick Hayes** in Eldersfield ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of). 13 c. Thos. de Mare holds *Hordewyke* of the Honor of Gloucester; the Prior of Lyra holds *Herdewyk*, Hab. 208. A. S. *Hierdanwic*, M. E. *Herdewyke*, the herdsman's dwelling (*v.* Wich). There are about thirty 'Hardwicks' recorded in Cassell's Gazetteer, and many are omitted, being only solitary dwellings. The name was sometimes applied to describe a district in charge of a herdsman. *V.* Harberrow.

Harpley, h., in Lower Sapey. 1275 *Arpeley*, *Harpele*, 1332 *Harpeleye*, S. R. The forms are late, and, being M. E., it is difficult to decide on the exact earlier forms, but the root

is clearly in A. S. *hearpe*, a harp, or *hearpere*, a harper = the harp lea, or the harper's lea. One might well imagine a p. n. *Harpa*, or *Hearpa*, but no such name is recorded in A. S., though 'Harper' is now commón enough. Cp. Harpenden and Harpsfield (Herts), Harpsden (Oxon.), Harpford (Devon), Harpley (Norfolk), Harpswell (Linc.), and Harptree (Som.).

Harridge, h., in Redmarley (1½ m. SW. of). 1275 *Horerugge*, S. R. A. S. *Hār-hricg*, M. E. *Hār* (or *Hore*) *rugge*, boundary ridge (*v.* Hoarstone). This h. lies on the boundary between Worcester and Hereford shires.

Hartell or **Hartle,** h., in Bellbroughton (½ m. E. of). 13 c. *Herthulle*, 1275 *Herthulle*, S. R. A. S. *Heort-hyll*, M. E. *Herthulle*, 'the hill of the hart' (male red deer).

Hartlebury, 4 m. S. of Kidderminster. 817 *Heortlabyrig*, C. S. 360, 361; 980 *Heortlabyrig*, C. D. 627; 985 *Heortlanbyrig*, C. D. 653; D. *Huertberie*; 12 c. *Hertlebery*; 13 c. *Hertleburi*. The terminal is clearly A. S. *burh* (dat. *byrig*), an enclosed or fortified place (*v.* Bury). With that terminal the rule is that the prefix is a p. n., unless it is descriptive of the situation, or the name of a river upon which the 'burh' stood. I therefore incline to treat the prefix as an unrecorded p. n., *Heortla* (gen. *Heortlan*), Heortla's 'burh'; but it is open to the objection that there is no evidence of such a name. On the other hand, *Heortla* or *Heortle* is not otherwise to be found in A. S. Harford, a h. 4 m. N. of Northleach, was *Iorotlaford* (= Heorotlaford) in 779, C. S. 230, and Hartlepool, in Durham, was *Heorot ea* (*ea*, a stream) in the 7th c. (Beda). Harford certainly, and Hartlepool probably, have a similar prefix-root to Hartlebury.

Harvington, h., in Chaddesley Corbett. 1275 *Herewinton*, S. R.; 1340 *Herwynton*; 14 c. *Herwyntone*, frequently. Probably A. S. p. n. *Herewine*, Herewine's town. *V.* Ton, and Harvington, *post.*

Harvington, h., 3½ m. N. of Evesham. 709 *Herefordtune*,

C. D. 1368; 799 *Hereford*, C. S. 295; 802 *Hereforde*, C. S. 307; 963 *Herefordtun juxta Avene*, C. S. 1110; D. *Herferthun*; 1275 *Herfortone*. A. S. *Here-ford-tūn*, the town of the ford of the army (*v.* Ton). The ford would probably be on the Avon, hard by the village. Hereford (city) has the same meaning, Harvington, *ante*, quite another.

Hasbury, h., in Halesowen. 13 and 14 c., frequently, *Haselburi*. A. S. *hæsel beorh*, the hazel hill.

Haselor, f., in Cropthorne; **Haselor (Upper** and **Lower)** farms, in Charlton. Haselor is a fairly common name. The A. S. form is always found to have been *hæselōfre*, M. E. *haseloure*, *haselovere*, the hazel bank.

Hatfield, h., in Norton by Kempsey (1 m. S. of). 1275 *Hathfeld*, S. R. A. S. *hæthfeld*—heath field (*v.* Field). A medial *th* commonly becomes *t*. We have numerous Hatfields, and all I have traced have a similar root. 'Hatton' (A. S. *hæthtūn*) is also a common name, meaning Heath town.

Haunch Farm, in Northfield. Haunch, Hanch, is a frequent name for fields and occasionally for farms, arising from their shape. *Hanch* is the old form.

Hawford, h., in North Claines, on Severn, at its confluence with Salwarp. The prefix may be a M. E. form of A. S. *haga*, an enclosed place. In some localities 'haw' (representing *haga*) means a 'timber wharf,' but I have not met with any such use of the word in Worcestershire; it is not unlikely to be the meaning here, as the demand for wood for the salt-works at Droitwich was formerly very great, and Hawford would be a near point for landing or delivery up the Salwarp. For the terminal *v.* Ford.

Hawksley, h., **Hawksley Hall, Hawksley Mill** and **Farm** (moated), in Kingsnorton (1½ m. SW. of). 1275 *Hauckslowe*, S. R.; 16 c. Habington spells it *Haukeslowe*; it then belonged to the Middlemores of Edgbaston; 1332 *Hawkslow*,

S. R. There are two Hawksleys here, 2 m. apart, Hawksley Mill and Farm being in Northfield, Hawksley Hall in Kingsnorton. The terminal is clearly *low*, a burial mound (*v.* Low). A. S. *hafoc*, M. E. *haucke*, means a hawk (formerly widely applied to diurnal predatory birds). The literal translation is 'Hawk's burial mound,' and *Hawk* after the Conquest (not before) was a p. n. I think it more likely that a p. n. is here represented than a bird. It would not follow that 'Hawk' was buried there (these mounds are prehistoric); he might have lived hard by, or the mound may have been a boundary mark (as was common) to his property.

Hawn (The), h., in Halesowen. This is A. S. *hagan* (dat. of *haga*), M. E. *hawe*, an enclosed or fenced-in place; the *n* has come down from Saxon times. The Hague, in Holland, has a similar root and meaning in Dutch, the French calling it La Haye.

Hay, a common prefix and terminal, is from A. S. *hege* (*g* = *y*), meaning (1) an enclosed place, (2) a locality known by defined bounds, but not enclosed. Forests were usually divided into hays for administrative purposes. In M. E. *hege* becomes *heye*, *heie*, *haie*, *haye*, *hay*, and similar forms. It is allied to A. S. *haga*, M. E. *haw*, *haghe*, *hawe*, which also means an enclosure, and is sometimes applied to burgage tenements in towns.

Hayden Way. The Icknield Street between Studley and Alcester is so marked on the O. M., 1 in., 1831. I know of no authority for the name, or its meaning.

Hay Mills, Hay Hall, in Yardley (on the Cole river). 1327 Robt. *in the Hay*, S. R. *V.* Hay.

Hay Wood, on Ankerdine, in Martley. 1275 *Walter de Haye*, S. R. *Haye* is a M. E. word meaning an enclosure, a fenced-in place; *v.* H. E. D. *s.* Hay, *sb.*[2]

Hazledene Grove, in Redmarley. 1356 *Haselden*. A. S. *hæsel*, the hazel, and *denu*, vale—the hazel vale.

Hazlewell Hall, ancient estate in Kingsnorton (2 m. NE. of). 16 c. *Haselwell*; A. S. *hæsel*, the hazel, and *wiell*, M. E. *well*, a spring—the hazel spring.

Headless Cross, h., 1 m. S. of Redditch, stands at the junction of the old road from London to Shrewsbury (via Stratford, Bromsgrove, and Kidderminster), with the Ridgeway, which here forms the boundary between the shires of Worcester and Warwick. This is just the locality where a cross would be erected in old times, and Headless Cross means a cross without a head, or a cross which had lost its head. The name is not uncommon. There was a Headless Cross in Nottingham in the 13 and 14 c., and cp. 'Headlesscross' in N. Lanarkshire; but early forms are lacking, and all I have met with favour the construction of 'Headley's Cross.' Ogilby's Book of the Roads, 1675, marks it 'Hedleys Cross,' at 111 m. 7 f. from London, and Taylor's Map of Worcestershire, 1772, writes it 'Headley's Cross.' A family of *de Hedleye* were certainly settled in the locality. In 1275 William *de Hedley* was assessed to the Subsidy, sub Bromsgrove and Kingsnorton. In 1294 Simon de Hedleye served on a jury relating to Feckenham Forest, and Stephen de Hedley was assessed to the Subsidy in 1332, sub Bromsgrove and Kingsnorton. Roger 'de Hedleye' was living in Tardebigg (which comprised Headless Cross), and was assessed to the subsidy of 1327. The evidence is therefore overwhelming that this is Hedley's, not Headless Cross, and 'Cross' probably referred to the cross roads and a fingerpost. These old guide-posts were commonly known as 'Cross o' th' hand.' Crabs Cross (q. v.) is on the same roads, a mile S. *V.* Headley Heath, *post*, and Cross in Hand, *ante*.

Headley Heath, in Kingsnorton (1½ m. SE. of). 849 *Hæthlege*, C. S. 455—Heath lea (*v.* Ley). It had changed its name to *Hedleye* by 1275, a family of 'de Hedleye' then living here. S. R.; a medial *th* generally becomes *d* or *t* in M. E. *V.* Headless Cross.

Heathy Mill, 1½ m. SE. of Kidderminster, on a tributary of the Stour. 1275 *Hetheye*, S. R.; 1327 *Hetheye*, *Hetheie*, S. R.; 1346 *Hetheghe*, S. R.; 16 c. *Hethey* (mill), belonged to Bordesley Abbey. A. S. *hæth*, heath, and *ig*, *ieg*, *eg* (*g* silent), M. E. *eie*, *eye*, an island—Heath island. The word was formerly applied to a place wholly or partially surrounded by water, or to an elevation in a marsh. This place lies in a watery locality; *v.* Ey.

Heightington, h., in Rock, 3 m. W. of Stourport; no forms. *Height-* is a difficulty I cannot solve; for the rest *v.* Ing and Ton; cp. Heighton in Sussex, and Heightington in Lincolnshire.

Hen Brook, in Stoke Prior and Upton Warren. 770 *Hens broc*, C. S. 204 (in this charter the junction between Hens broc and Salwarpe is called *mythan*; *v.* Mitton). *Hen* is not here used in the sense of a female bird, but of water-fowl in general, as we say Moor-hen, Heath-hen, Marsh-hen, Water-hen, Hen-harrier, to describe a species, and 'hen-roost.' Cp. Moreton-Henmarsh. West Hendred, in Berks, was *Henne rīth* (A. S. *rīth*, a rivulet). The charter of 770 is a late copy, using occasionally M. E. words.

Henmarsh Wood, in Pedmore, on 1 in. O. M., not on 6 in.; adjoining is Broadmarsh Farm. Henmarsh means a marsh frequented by wild-fowl, *Hen* being used in the sense of species and not of sex (*v.* Hen Brook).

Henwick, h., 2 m. NW. of Worcester. The modern form probably represents an A. S. *æt Hēan-wīc*, high village (*v.* Wich).

Hewell Grange, in Tardebigg, belonged to Bordesley Abbey. 1300 *Hewelle Grange*. (The *H* is intrusive; it should be Ewell, from A. S. *ēa-wylm*, *ēa-wielle*, a water-spring. Skeat.) An intrusive *H* is common. Ewell, in Surrey, appears in charters as *Æwelle*, and has this meaning. *V.* Grange.

Hidley (Broad), Hidley (Little), in Halesowen. 1311

and 1317 *Hyddelege*; 15 c. *Hiddeley*. Probably A. S. p. n. *Hidda*—Hidda's lea (*v.* Ley).

High Oak Farm, High Oak Coppice, in Ribbesford. Ivo *del Ok'* (of the oak), Nicholas del Ok', John *de Hok*, and Roger *de Hok'* were living in Ribbesford in 1275, S. R.

Hill, a common terminal and an occasional prefix, is from A. S. *hyll*, M. E. *hull, hulle*, a hill. The word is comparative, and often applied, in level districts, to slight elevations.

Hill, h., in Fladbury, 3 m. NE. of Pershore. c. 1043 *Hylle*, C. D. 923. A. S. *hyll*, hill.

Hill Croome, *v.* Croome (Hill).

Hillhampton, h., in Martley, 4½ m. SSW. of Stourport. D. *Hilhamatone*; 1275 *Hulhamtone*, S. R.—Hill-home-town (*v.* Hill, Ham, and Ton).

Himbleton, 4 m. SE. of Droitwich. 816 *Hymeltun*, C. S. 816; 884 *Hymeltun*, C. S. 552; 972 *Hymeltune*, C. D. 259; 991 *Hymeltune*, C. D. 680; D. *Himeltun*. This is 'the town of the hop plant' (A. S. *hymele*) (*v.* Ton). The manor is bounded by a stream called, in the charters, *Hymel broc*, 'the brook of the hop plant.' The manor may take its name from the stream, or the stream from the manor. Himley, in Staffordshire, Hemlington, and Hambleton, in Yorkshire, have a similar root. The plant here referred to is the wild hop (Bryony, Wild Vine, &c.). The cultivated plant used in brewing, and the name 'hop,' were first introduced into England, from Holland, in the 15th century.

Hindlip, 3½ m. SW. of Droitwich. 966 *Hinde hlep*; 11 c. *Hindelepe*; D. *Hindelep*. A. S. *hind*, gen. *hinde*, female red deer, and *hlīep, hlȳp*, leap—'the hind's leap.' This may refer to some extraordinary leap, or to a 'Deer Leap' in the fence of enclosed ground adjoining a forest. Two deer leaps still remain on Cannock Chase.

Ho, Hoe, Hoo, an occasional terminal, is A. S. *hōh, hō*, M. E. *how, hawe, hoo*; in northern counties *heugh*. It means a projecting spur or ridge of land; a hill ending abruptly

or steeply. Exs.: The *Hoe* (Plymouth), Martin*hoe*, Mort*hoe*, Ayn*ho*, Iving*hoe*, &c.

Hoarstone. A. S. *hār* (pron. hoar) plays an important part in pl. names. All dictionaries translate it 'hoary, grey, old,' and that undoubtedly is one of its meanings; but it certainly came to be used, at a very early period, in the sense of 'boundary'; it is one of the commonest words to be found in the charters, generally in its dative form *hāran*; always on a boundary, and always in that obvious sense; yet it has been perversely translated 'grey,'—the 'grey oak,' the 'grey withy,' the 'grey pit,' the 'grey apple-tree,' the 'grey thorn,' the 'grey lea,' the 'grey stone,' the 'grey spring,' the 'grey cross,' the 'grey lane,' and similar absurdities, have long been served up to us. The H. E. D., *s.* Hoarstone, is the first great authority to recognize the true meaning of the word. In and after the 15th c. the form has frequently become Horestone, Warstone, Worston, and Whorestone. Boundary stones were used in the most remote times. 'And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar,' as a boundary mark between him and Laban, Gen. xxxi. 45. 'And the border went up to the stone of Bohan, the son of Reuben,' Joshua xv. 6.

Hoarstone (The), f., 1½ m. NE. of Bewdley. 1275 *Richard o' th' horeston*, S. R.; 1449 *Richard Janyns of Horestone* (Lyt. Ch.). *V.* Hoarstone, *ante*.

Hob, Hob Hill, Hobs Lane, Hobs Hole, Hob Well, Hob Croft, Hob Moor, Hob Green, &c., are fairly common names in the county. *Hob* is a familiar or rustic variation of *Rob*—Robin Goodfellow, or Puck, and alludes to former universal beliefs:

> 'From elves, *hobs* and fairies,
> That trouble our dairies,
> Defend us, good heaven' (1625).

Hodge is only a variant form of Hob. Hob, Rob, and Robin are Norman words, not A. S.

Hob, or **Abbots Lench,** *v.* Lench (Abbots).

Hockley, Hocker, Hockerill, Ocker, Ockeridge. These are common names in the Midlands, always in connexion with hills or hillsides. I find *Hockele* 1327, *Hockelaye* 1332, *Hocwell* 1332. *Hoc-* seems to be a M. E. form of A. S. *hoh* (*hough, hoe* being similar forms), and therefore to have the same meaning as Ho, Hoe, Hoo (q.v.). This is the opinion of Professor Skeat, who has dealt fully with the subject in his 'Influence of Anglo-French Pronunciation upon Modern English,' 10. He points out that A. S. *hoh* had a guttural pronunciation which led to the M. E. forms *hough* and *hock.*

Hoden (Little), Hoden (Lower), Hoden (Upper), farms, and **Hoden Coppice,** in or near Cleeve Prior. c. 1530 *Hodon.* The Mucklows (afterwards of Arley Kings, and ancestors of Zachary Lloyd, Esq., of Arley) lived here in the early part of the 16th c., and probably before then. I cannot tell the meaning.

Hodge, *v.* Hob. **Hoe,** *v.* Ho.

Holbeach Farm, in Kidderminster. A. S. *hōl,* and *bæch,* the hollow (deep) valley (*v.* Bach).

Holborough Green, Holborough Green Farm (moated), 1½ m. SE. of Feckenham. 1275 *Hullebereue,* S. R.; 1727 *Holbrow Green.* This looks like M. E. Hillbarrow (*v.* Barrow).

Holbro' (Lower and **High),** farms in Wolverley. *V.* Holborough, *ante.*

Holdfast, h., in Ripple, 2 m. S. of Upton-on-Severn. 967 *æt Holenfesten,* C. S. 1204; 967 *æt Holenfæsten, æt Holanfæstene,* C. S. 1205; D. *Holefest;* 1275 *Holefeld,* S. R. (the *feld* is probably a clerical mistake); 1327 *Holefaste.* The prefix is A. S. *holen, holegn,* holly, the terminal *fæsten,* a fastness—'the holly fastness.' The word is here probably used in the sense of 'thicket.'

Hole, a word frequently used in pl. names, does not mean

a 'hole' in the modern sense of the word, but 'a hollow or low place' (*v.* H. E. D. *s.* Hole).

Hollies (The), in Yardley. 1275 Adam *atte Holies*, S. R., must have been a great man, as he is assessed at 8*s.* 8*d.*; Richard *de Holies* is assessed in the S. R. of 1327 at 2*s.* 1*d.* *Holies* = hollies.

Hollin (Upper and Lower), in Pensax, 6 m. SW. of Bewdley. I think this must be the unrecognized D. manor of *Holim*, in Doddingtree Hundred. 1332 *Holyn*, S. R.; 1603 *Hollin*, S. R. A. S. *holen*, *holegn*, M. E. *hollin*—the Holly (tree).

Holling (Lower and Upper), farms, in Martley. 1275 Alfred de *Holin*, S. R.; 1327 Gilbert *Holyn*, S. R.; 1332 *Holynne*, S. R.—The Holly (tree); *v.* Hollin, *ante.*

Hollings Hill, f., in Mathon. John *Holyn* is assessed to the 1275 S. R. *s.* Mathon.—The Holly (tree); *v.* Hollin, *ante.*

Holloway, h., in Feckenham. D. *Holewei*; 12 c. *Holeweye*, *Holowei*; 1467 *Holewey Grange* (belonged to Bordesley Abbey). This is a common name for ancient roads on hillsides, where the adjacent land is higher than the road. The A. S. form would be *æt holan wege*, where *holan* is the weak dat. sing. of *holh*, hollow. Under modern road-making 'holloways' are fast disappearing.

Hollow Fields, h., **Hollow Court**, in Hanbury (3 m. SE. of); rightly 'Holy fields,' because the Empress Maud gave the estate to the Abbey of Bordesley (Nash, ii. 549). Probably a corruption of A. S. *halig*, holy, or some of its many M. E. forms.

Holly Hall, 1½ m. SW. of Dudley. 1275 Stephan *atte Holie*, S. R. *Holie* is a M. E. form of 'holly.'

Holt is a common word in pl. names; it is A. S. *holt*, a wood, a copse; now only used in poetry and dialect.

Holt, 5 m. NW. of Worcester. D. *Holte*;—always *Holt*, *Holte.* A. S. *holt*, a wood.

Holt End, h., in Besley.—Wood End (*v.* Holt, *ante*, and End). As 'Holt' became a common mediaeval family name, and there are no earlier forms, a p. n. may be here represented.

Holt Fleet, in Ombersley, on Severn. A small stream here joins Severn (*v.* Holt, *ante*). A. S. *flēot*, M. E. *fleet*, mouth of a river (doubtless the small stream referred to).

Holy Cross, h., in Clent. I have no information. In Amphlett's History of Clent it appears as 'Holy Cross' and 'Hallow Cross,' with no history.

Homehouse Farm (partly in Mathon). 1275 Adam *de la Homme*, Juliana *de la Homme*, S. R.; 1327, 1332 Richard *in the Home*, S. R. This is 'riverside land' (*v.* Ham, *b*).

Honeybourne, a common A. S. name for streams. 840 *Hunig burne*, C. S. 428, on bounds of Crowle; 866 *Hunig broc*, C. S. 513, in Wolverley. A. S. *hunig burn*, Honey brook (*v.* Himbleton, and Honeybourne, *post*).

Honeybourne (Church), 5 m. E. of Evesham. 709 *Huniburne*, C. S. 125 (belonged to Evesham Abbey); 714 *Huniburne*, C. S. 130; 840 *Hunig burn*, C. S. 428; D. *Huniburne, Honeyburne*. A. S. *hunig burn*, Honey brook. There is a stream here called 'Honey brook,' which doubtless gives name to the place. 'Church' is a M. E. addition to distinguish it from 'Cow Honeybourne,' an adjoining manor in Gloucestershire, there being a church here, and none at Cow Honeybourne. The Icknield Street here divides the manors and the counties. Honey was an article of great importance in early times; rents were frequently paid in it; it was used in the production of mead, and the wax was needful for the celebration of divine service, as well as for domestic use. Cow Honeybourne is rightly *Calcwe*, i. e. bare—Bald Honeybourne—a pretty strong example of 'interpretative corruption.' *V.* Himbleton.

Honeybrook, in Wolverley. 866 *Hunig broc*, C. S. 513. Honey brook (*v.* Honeybourne, *ante*).

Hoo Farm, Hoobrook, h., 1½ m. S. of Kidderminster. 1275 John de la *Ho*, S. R. *V.* Ho, *ante.*

Hook, in pl. names (A. S. *hōc*), means a corner, angle, nook, point of land. Exs.: Hook Farm, Hook Common, Hook of Holland.

Hope, in various forms, is a common terminal, and an occasional prefix in the Midlands, especially Salop. It is A. S. *hōp*, M. E. *hope*, only to be found in A. S. dictionaries in its adjectival form, *hōpig* (*g*=*y*), in hills and hollows, or in compounds, such as *mōr-hopu* (plural), moor-hope, a fen. It means 'a valley between two hills.' *Hope*, *bach*, *combe* have substantially the same meaning.

Hopehouse Farm, in Martley. 1275 John *de Hope*, Agnes *de Hope*, Alice *de Hope*, S. R.; 1327 John *atte Hope*. A. S. *hōp*, M. E. *hope*, a valley (*v.* Hope).

Hopwood, h., in and 2 m. N. of Alvechurch. 848 *Hopwuda*, C. S. 455; 934 *Hopwuda*, C. S. 701; 1275 *Hoppewode*, S. R. A. S. *hop*, privet. The A. S. word for hop (the wild hop) was *hymele*. Hop, as a name for the cultivated plant, and the plant itself, were not introduced here until the 15th c., and were borrowed from the Dutch. This is 'the privet wood'—a wood where privet abounded.

Horsebrook, in Wolverley. 866 *Horsa broc*, C. S. 513; 962 *Horsa broc*, C. S. 1087. A. S. *hors*, a horse, gen. pl. *horsa*, and *brōc*, brook — Horses'-brook; the name is common.

Horse Cliff, h., in Wolverley, 3 m. NE. of Kidderminster; a corruption of Aust Cliff (q. v.).

Horseley, h., in Wolverley. 1275 *Horsleye*, S. R. Probably takes its name from Horsebrook (q. v.) (*v.* also Ley).

Horsham, h., in Martley. 1275 *Horsham*, S. R. *Horsa* was an A. S. p. n., and this may be 'Horsa's home' (*v.* Ham), or it may be 'Horse's meadow' (*v.* Ham, *b*). Earlier forms might solve the doubt.

Horton, h., in Hampton Lovat. 972 *Horton*, C. S. 1282;

D. *Hortune*. This, though a common name, is not easy to deal with. I think it must be A. S. *hor(h)tūn*, which, in compound, would be *Hortūn*—dirty or muddy town. *Hore*, now obs., was a common M. E. word for mire, dirt, &c., from A. S. *horu*; cp. Hormead, in Herts, which Professor Skeat renders 'muddy mead.'

Hossage (The), f., 1½ m. W. of Middle Littleton; on the boundary between Worcestershire and Warwickshire. This name must be corrupt.

Houndsfield Farm, in Kingsnorton (3 m. SE. of). D. *Hundesfelde*, berewick of Bromsgrove; 16 c. *Houndeffelde*; belonged to Bordesley Abbey. A. S. *hund*, M. E. *hounde*, means a dog, hound; but *Hund* was also an A. S. p. n., and also the prefix to many other names, such as *Hundwulf*, *Hundbèald*, &c.; so that it is impossible to say whether this means 'the hound's field,' or 'Hund's field' (*v.* Field).

Housen, h., in Cotheridge. This is a M. E. pl. form of 'house.' It is still common in Staffordshire to speak of houses as *housen*. A. S. *hūs*, a house.

Howley Grange, Halesowen. 1415 *Owley Grange*, Lyt. Ch. *Owl* doubtless means an owl, from the place being a resort of those birds. *Owlet* and *Howlet* are also M. E. forms for an owl. The *ey* probably represents an original *et*. Owlet, and Howlet Hall, are common names for old homesteads.

Howsell Upper, Howsell Lower, in Leigh. Nash, ii. Sup. 75, writes it *Howswell*, which, if a correct form, translates itself.

Huddington, 5 m. SE. of Droitwich. 840 *Hudigtun*, C. S. 428; D. *Hudintune*; 12 c. *Hodington*. *Huda* was an A. S. p. n., the gen. form of which would be *æt Hudantune*—Huda's town. The mod. *ing* in pl. names frequently descends from a gen. or dat. in *-an*.

Hundred House, 5½ m. SW. of Stourport. The Courts for the hundred of Doddingtree were formerly held here; Hab. ii. 338.

Hundred House, ½ m. N. of Bromsgrove. 1275 Richard del *hundred*, S. R. Probably the house where the Courts for the hundred of Half-Shire were held. A Court was appurtenant to every hundred, and was anciently of considerable importance.

Hunger-, Hungry Hill, *v.* Hanger-.

Hunnington, h., in Halesowen. 1403 *Honyngton*, Lyt. Ch. Probably A. S. p. n. *Huna*, yielding a gen. *æt Hunantune*. Huna's town (*v.* Ton).

Hunt End, h., in Feckenham. 1275 William *le Honte*, 1327 Walter *Hounte*, were living in Feckenham, S. R. This place probably takes its name from the family. A. S. *hunta*, a hunter. *V.* End.

Huntingtrap Farm, Huntingtrap Common, in Hadsor. 13 and 14 c. *Hountingthrope*, S. R.; *Huntingdrope*, *Huntyndrop* (medial *d* represents *th*). The terminal is A. S. *thorp*, *throp*, a village; the word is rarely found in Worcestershire, but, under Danish influence, is common in the north and east. The meaning is hunting village. The locality lay within the limits of Feckenham Forest, and belonged to Dodford Priory.

Huntingtree, Huntingtree Lane, in Hasbury, Halesowen. 1347, 1381 'in the field called *Huntyngtre*,' Lyt. Ch.; later charters *Huntyngtre*, and *Huntyngtree field*. Hunting-tree.—There is no history of this name, that I am aware of.

Hurcot, h., 3 m. from Kidderminster. D. *Worcote* (berewick of Kidderminster); 12 c. *Hurchote*, *Hurcote*; 1275 *Horecote*; 16 c. *Hurdcote*. The forms are rather confusing; the original was probably A. S. *æt Hyrde-cote*, the shepherd's cot.

Hurst, a common terminal in pl. names, is A. S. *hyrst*, M. E. *hurst*, a copse, wooded hill, thicket. Exs.: Lyndhurst, Nuthurst, Hawkhurst, Chislehurst, &c.

Hussingtree, *v.* Martin Hussingtree.

Hwiccii, *v.* Wiccii.

Hyde (The), the name of several farms and small estates. A. S. *hīd*, M. E. *hyde*, a measure of land in A. S. times, and for some time after the Conquest, varying in extent with the nature of the ground; primarily, the quantity considered sufficient for the support of one family. In D. it may be taken that *hyde* and *carucate* are practically synonyms. Exs.: The Hyde, Upton-on-Severn, Hyde Farm, in Pinvin, &c.

Hyron Hall, in Yardley (moated). Though this is an ancient estate I cannot trace it under its present name.

Icknield Street, Roman way running N. and S., comes out of the Fossway (Exeter to Lincoln), 3 m. SW. of Stow-on-the-Wold, via Condicote, Spring Hill, Broadway Hill, Newcomb, near Saintbury and Weston-sub-Edge, between the Honeybournes, through Bidford, Alcester, Beoley, Birmingham, near Lichfield, through Burton and Derby to Chesterfield. Through Staffordshire it is called, in 12 and 13 c. charters, 'the royal way called *Ikenhilde strete*,' 'the King's street which is called *Ykenild*,' '*the King's way, or the Ricnelde street*,' '*Rikelinge strete*,' '*Rykenyldstrete*.' In Worcestershire, in a charter of 972 relating to Beoley, C. S. 1282, it is called *Stangeat*; 1316, in Kingsnorton, *Ikeneld street*; in 1327, near the Honeybournes, *Ikenild-*; in 1340, near Alvechurch, *Ikeling-strete*; S. of the Honeybournes it is commonly called Buckle Street. Over the Cotswolds its course is broken, though traceable and confused with the Saltway. There is another 'Icknield way,' not Roman, running NE. and SW. from Avebury in Wilts., through Wallingford, Princes Risborough, Dunstable, Hitchin, Baldock, Royston, and Cambridgeshire, into Norfolk. This road in 10 c. charters is called *Icenilde-*, *Icenhilde-*, *Icenhilte weg*, and *Cinges-strǽte*. A tribe of 'Iceni' are said to have inhabited Norfolk, but that has no bearing on this road. The names of all our Roman ways are A. S., or supposed

to be; but neither A. S. nor any other language appears to throw light on the meaning of Icknield Street (*Icenhilde weg*). A. S. *hild* means war, battle, but is only a poetical word, unlikely to form an element in pl. names. On the other hand, Watling Street and Ermine Street appear to be poetical or mythological names. Mr. W. H. Stevenson considers the interpretation 'hopeless.' *V.* Buckle Street, Hayden Way.

Illey, h., in Halesowen. 12 c. *Hilleley*, *Yleley*; 1250 *Hilleleye*; 1304 *Ylleleye*; 15 c. *Ylley* (frequently), *Illey*; all Lyt. Ch. An *Illeyge* in Kent is mentioned in Th. Ch. p. 507, a. 958; the same place is mentioned at p. 523 as *æt Illanley*; Monks Eleigh in Suffolk was *Illeyge* in 958, *Illanlege* in 972, and *Illege* in 990. It cannot be 'Hilly-lea' as 'Hilly' is not a recorded word before the 15 c. I have no doubt the prefix is the A. S. p. n. *Ylla* (gen. *Yllan*)—Ylla's lea (*v.* Ley). The name is rare, and only once recorded as that of a monk at Durham. Shortly before the Conquest, and long after, *I* and *Y* were commonly confused and interchanged.

Impney, h., **Impney Mill,** 1 m. NE. of Droitwich. 12 c. *Imney*; 13 c. *Ymenege*, *Imenye*, S. R. A. S. masc. p. n. *Imma* (gen. *Imman*), and *ig*, M. E. *ege*, *eye*, *ey*, Imma's island. The old meaning of island included 'watery land.' The *p* in the modern form is excrescent, as in Hampton (q. v.).

Inardstone, f., in Redmarley. 12 c. *Inardstone*; 1380 *Inardstone*, *Inarstone*. A. S. p. n. *Isenheard* (Iron-hard), later *Isnard*, and *tūn* (*v.* Ton)—Isenheard's town.

Ing. This A. S. word plays a conspicuous part in pl. names. It is said to have two meanings: (1) a patronymic sense, 'sons or descendants of,' equivalent to the Irish O', or Scotch Mac; (2) a possessive sense, 'the property of or belonging to.' The evidence of the use of the word in a possessive sense is unsatisfactory, and rejected by some A. S. scholars; *v.* Bosworth-Toller, *s.* Ing. A medial *ing* is

common in modern pl. names, which, on investigation, frequently turns out to represent a gen. *-an*; e. g. Abingdon (A. S. *Abbandun*); Huntingdon (A. S. *Huntandun*); and *v.* Aldington.

Inkberrow, 4½ m. W. of Alcester. 789 *Intanbeorgas*, C. S. 256; 802 *Intanbergum*, *Intanbeorgan*, C. S. 307; and similar forms in many subsequent A. S. charters; D. *Inteberge*; 1275 *Inkbarewe*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Inta*, gen. *Intan*, and *beorh*, dat. sing. *beorge*, pl. *beorgum*, *beorgan*—Inta's hills. *Ink*, in the form of 1275, can hardly be an 'interpretative corruption.' The word is O. F. *enque*, mod. *encre*, and is first found in our language, in 1250, as *enke*.

Inkford, h., in Wythall. 1784 *Inkford*. *Ink-* is certainly a corrupt form. This h. has no connexion with Inkberrow, which lies 10 m. S. *V.* Ford. There is a stream here called Inkford Brook. Cp. Inkpen (Berks.), 931 *Ingpenne*.

Insetton, h., in Chaddesley Corbett. This is pure A. S., *in-sætan*, in-dwellers, inhabitants, settlers. The terminals in Dor*set*, Somer*set*, have the same root, *sæta*. Cp. Woods*etton*, in Sedgley, Staffs.

Ipsley, 1 m. S. of Redditch. 963 *Æps leage*, C. S. 1111; D. *Epeslei*. This is A. S. *æps*, *æspe*, the white poplar—the lea of the white poplar; the word is sometimes applied to the black, and black Italian poplar, and alludes to the quivering of the leaves; *v.* Ley.

Isborne, river, falls into Avon at Evesham. 709 *Esigburn*, C. D. 1368; 777 *Esegburn*, C. D. 131; 988 *Eseburne*, C. D. 662; 1002 *Esingburn*, C. D. 1295. The prefix is clearly the A. S. p. n. spelt, at various times, *Esig*, *Ese*, *Esi* = Esig's (*g*=*y*) burn, brook.

Ismere House, 3½ m. NE. of Kidderminster. By a Latin charter of 736 *Æthelbalt*, king of the Mercians, grants to *Cyniberhti*, for the foundation of a monastery in the province 'which of old time is called *Husmere*, upon the river called Stur (*Stour*), ten hides of land, having to the north

the woody region called *Cynibre* (Kinver Forest?) and to the east another (woody region), the name of which is Moerheb, whereof the greater part belongs to the before-mentioned lands.' By a Latin charter, c. 757, 'Ceolfrith the Abbot,' son of 'Cyneberht,' with the consent of Offa, king of the Mercians, grants to Milred, Bishop of Worcester, inter alia, fourteen hides of land 'in the province of *Usmere at Sture*.' It would seem that the monastery was not founded by Cynebeorht, and that Ceolfrith 'for the good of their souls,' and with the consent of the king, gave the lands to the bishopric of Worcester. Up to the dates of these charters counties had not been formed outside Wessex, and the country was divided into 'provinces,' each province having a 'subregulus' (governor) under the king. In 964 Eadgar, 'King of Albion,' grants to Earl Beorhtnoth an estate called 'Culnan Clif' (Cookley), the boundaries of which are set out in Anglo-Saxon. They commence at '*Usmere*,' to Cuthred's tree (on the bounds of Wolverley), thence to the Stour, then to Horsebrook, to Cenunga ford, to the wood, to Cynefares stone (Kinver's boundary stone), again to Stour, to Windover, and again to *Usmere*. 'Usmere' is clearly identified with Broadwaters, the ancient and present boundary between Kidderminster and Wolverley passing through the middle of the lake. *Mere* in Anglo-Saxon means a lake, but I can place no acceptable construction on *Hus-* or *Us-* in connexion with *mere*; indeed, we do not know to what language that stem belongs. Ismere House is, I believe, the only representative of the ancient province of *Husmere*. The name was current in 1505; it is then recorded that 'the monks of Halesowen had at *Husmore* 111 barren Kye, 8 oxen belonging to the cellarer, and 11 fat beeves for the Kechyn, 140 schepe, and 60 lambys.' The estate was at that time a Grange to the Abbey (Nash, ii. App. xxii). '*Ūs* may be Mod. Eng. *Ouse*, a river name (A. S. *Wīsa*); cp. Wisbeach, on the Nene, anciently called the Ouse.' (Skeat.)

Kedges (The), ancient farm in Wichenford. A kedge is a small anchor used in mooring or warping a vessel, but this farm is far from any navigable river, though it is close to the Laughern, a considerable, but not navigable stream. There is a Ketch Coppice on Severn side, 2 m. S. of Worcester, at the junction of Teme and Severn, and Ketches Farm in Bishampton.

Kelmesham, h., in Bredon (on O. M. Kingsham). 14 c. *Kelmesham, Kilmesham. Kelm* probably represents the A. S. p. n. *Cynehelm,* later *Kenelm*—'Cynehelm's village.' *V.* Ham.

Kemerton, 5 m. NE. of Tewkesbury. 840 *Cyneburgincg-tun,* C. S. 430. A. S. fem. p. n. *Cyneburh*—'the town of the sons of Cyneburh.' *V.* Ing and Ton.

Kempsey, 4 m. S. of Worcester. 799 *Kemesei,* C. S. 295; 977 *Cymesige,* C. D. 612; D. *Chemesige*; 1275 *Kemesey,* S. R. The Bishop of Worcester had a palace and park here; Henry II held his Court here on some of his frequent visits to Worcester, where he was crowned; and in 1265 Simon de Montfort and Henry III lay at the palace. There was also a monastery here in 799 which lasted about fifty years, and was then absorbed by Worcester. The prefix is the A. S. p. n. *Cymen,* which would yield *Cymenesige,* and in mediaeval form *Kemsey,* later *Kempsey* (excrescent *p*). The terminal is A. S. *-ige,* an island (or watery land). Kempsey lies on Severn; there does not appear to be any island here, but much land liable to flood.

Kenelm's (St.) Chapel, 2½ m. S. of Halesowen. 1430 and 15 c. *Kelmestowe, Kelmysstowe*; 1327 *Kelmestowe,* S. R. The saint's real name was *Coenhelm,* of which *Kenelm* is a late or corrupt form. *Kelmstow*—Kenelm's place, was the name of the hamlet near the chapel. It was a great place for pilgrims. The legend of St. Kenelm is told in Amphlett's History of Clent, p. 6.

Kenilworth. There is, or was, a place of this name

about 3 m. E. of Worcester. It is mentioned as *Cynelde weorthe* in C. S. 1298, an. 974, and as *Cinilde wyrthe* in C. D. 670, an. 980. It is the A. S. fem. p. n. *Cynehild*, and *weorth*, property or farm (*v.* Worth)—'Cynehild's farm.' Kenilworth, in Warwickshire, has a similar root. I have often been impressed by the number of females who appear as landowners in A. S. times. Women must then have occupied a good social position.

Kenswick, 4½ m. NW. of Worcester. D. *Checinwiche*; 12 c. *Checkingwic*; 13 and 14 c. *Kekingwik, Kekyngewyke, Kekeswych.* The prefix, I think, represents the A. S. p. n. *Cyging*, and the original form would be *Cygingeswic*—Cyging's village (*v.* Wich). This place gave name to an old Worcestershire family, now represented, I believe, by 'Kekewich.' Keckewich, in Cheshire, has probably a similar root, but has better maintained its form.

Kersewell, h., in Kempsey (1½ m. SE. of). 1275 *Kersewelle*, S. R.; 1346 *Kereswell*, S. R. A. S. *cerse*, (water-) cress; *wiell*, M. E. *welle*, a spring—Watercress spring. This is a case of metathesis. The *r*, more than any other consonant, has a tendency to shift, i. e. sometimes to precede, and sometimes to follow the vowel. 'Cresswell' is a common name; the A. S. form is rarely preserved.

Kersoe, h., in Elmley Castle (1 m. SE. of). 780 *Criddesho*, C. S. 235; 1275 *Crydesho, Cridesho*, S. R. I think the prefix is a form of the A. S. p. n. *Creoda, Crioda, Cryda* (variants); A. S. *hoe*, a hill—Cryda's hill (*v.* Ho). Curdworth, Warwickshire (D. *Credeworde*) is 'Creoda's worth' (farm).

Kettles Wood, Long Kettles Wood, in Frankley, probably takes name from William Ketel, or Nicholas Ketel, who were living in Frankley in 1275, S. R. Ralph Ketel and Hugh Ketel also witness Frankley Charters in the 13 c., and other Ketels are frequent witnesses or parties to local charters down to 1482.

Kidderminster. D. *Chideminstre*; 12 c. *Kideminstre*; 13 c. *Kydelminster*, *Kyderminstre*, *Kydermunstre*. D. is the first record we have of Kidderminster, though A. S. charters relating to adjacent manors are numerous. The terminal is plainly A. S. *mynster*, M. E. *munster*, *minstre*, a church or monastery; as there is no reason to suppose a monastery ever existed here we must construe it 'church.' The difficulty is with the prefix. The D. *ch* represents *c* hard, and treating the forms as *Kide-*, *Kider-*, or *Kydel-*, it seems impossible to make anything of them in A. S., and one of the best Welsh scholars of his day, the Rev. D. Silvan Evans, could make nothing satisfactory of them in Welsh, apart from the usual objection of a prefix and terminal in different languages. *Cydda* was an A. S. p. n., but the forms do not justify its application.

King and **Queen Stones,** on Bredon Hill. A court leet for the hundred of Oswaldslow was formerly held here (Nash, Introd. lxi, citing Parly. Survey of 1647).

Kingsford, h., in Wolverley. 964 *Cenunga ford*, C. S. 1134; 1275 *Keningeford*, S. R.; 1300 *Kyngesford*, *Kynyngford* (Peram. of Kinver Forest). Here *Cen-* is a short form of some p. n. commencing *Coen-* (such as *Coenhelm*, *Coenred*, *Coenric*), later *Cen-* and *Ken-*; *unga* = *inga* (*v.* Ing), and so we get 'the ford of the descendants of Coen or Cen' (*v.* Ford). There is a small stream here.

Kings Heath, in Kingsnorton. Kingsnorton belonged to the Crown; hence 'Kings' is a common name in the Manor.

Kingsnorton, 5 m. SW. of Birmingham. D. *Nortune* (berewick in Bromsgrove Manor), belonged to the Crown from the Conquest to Henry III, and again from Edward IV to James I; 1275 *Nortone*, S. R.; 1327, 1332 *Norton*, S. R. King's North town.

Kingswood, h., in Kingsnorton (1½ m. E. of). 1275 *Kingeswode*, S. R. Kingsnorton belonged to the king, and

the woods and wastes were his property as parcels of the Manor.

Kington, 10½ m. W. of Worcester. D. *Chintune*, 'Eilaf and Tori held it in the time of King Edward (the Confessor), and they had an enclosure (*haia*) in which were taken wild beasts'; 1275 *Kyngton*, S. R.; 1340 *Kynton*. I think an A. S. form would give us *Cyne-tūn*, royal town (*v.* Ton), from its having been the residence of some early king.

Kinnersley, in Severn-Stoke (1 m. E. of). Cp. Kinnersley in W. Herefordshire, Kinnersley in Salop. These places supply the forms which are here lacking, and yield *Cyneheardesleage*, Cyneheard's lea (*v.* Ley).

Kitwell Farm, Kitwell House, Kits Well, in Northfield. Peter *Kytte* was living in Northfield in 1275 (S. R.); *Kittelond*, Kitte's land, is also mentioned in a deed of 1362 relating to Warley-Wigorn. *Kitt* is a short form for Christopher.

Knap. Knap Farm in Alfric; **Cold Knap Wood** in Dormston; **Fidlers Knap** in Elmley Castle; **Colliers Knap** in Broadway; **Dornap** in Broadway. A. S. *cnæp*, M. E. *knap*, a small hill. Cp. Knowle.

Knaven Hill Farm, Knavenhill Wood, in Alderminster. This is A. S. *Cnafan-hyll*. *Cnafa* means a boy or servant (our knave in cards); but it was also a p. n., and we cannot tell whether this is 'Cnafa's hill,' or 'the servants' hill.'

Knighton, h. in Inkberrow (1½ m. E. of); a common name, generally found in A. S. in its dat. form *æt Cnihta-tūn*; it is A. S. *cniht*, a boy, servant, and *tūn*, town (*v.* Ton). After the Conquest *cniht* came also to mean 'a soldier, man-at-arms,' and later, 'a man of gentle birth trained to arms.' I assume this place to be of A. S. origin, and therefore translate it 'the servants' town.'

Knighton-on-Teme, 3 m. NE. of Tenbury. 957 *Cnihtatune*, C. S. 1007; 11 c. *Cnihtatun*, C. D. 952; D. *Cnistetoun*; 1108 *Cnihtetun*; 'the servants' town' (*v.* Knighton, *ante*). A. S. *cniht* is our mod. 'knight,' but the

meaning has varied. The *ht* in Cni*ht* was novel to the Norman scribes of D., and they commonly wrote it *st*; but *v.* Knightwick.

Knightsford Bridge, h., in Doddenham. This name probably follows from the vicinity of Knightwick (q. v., *post*). The 'ford' doubtless refers to the passage over the river Teme before the bridge was built.

Knightwick, 9 m. W. of Worcester. 738 *Cnihtwic*, C. D. 1023; 964 *Cnihtawice*, C. S. 1110; D. *Cnihtewic*; 'the servants' village' (*v.* Wick). Where the name is clearly A. S. this is the proper construction. In mediaeval times the word was commonly applied to a man-at-arms, and 'knave' was used for a boy or servant.

Knowle, or **Cnoll,** in Alvechurch. 1275 *de la Cnolle*, S. R. A. S. *cnoll*, M. E. *knowl*, *knoll*, a small round-topped hill; a common name for hamlets and manors.

Kyre Wyre, 4 m. SE. of Tenbury. D. *Cuer*, *Chuer*; 1108 *Cyr*; 1275 *Cure Wyard*, S. R. This is W. *Cwr*, a border, edge, limit, corner. The manor lies on the boundary of the counties of Hereford and Worcester, which here forms a sharp triangle; the Wyards were its early Norman lords.

Langley, h., in Halesowen. A. S. *æt langan leage*, long lea (*v.* Ley). Here the A. S. form has maintained itself, as it often does with this very common name.

Lappal, h., in Halesowen. 1335, 1347 *Lappole*; 1342 Thomas *atte Pole*; 1347 Thomas de *Lappole*, Nicholas *atte Pole*; 1381 William *at Pool*; 1454 *La Pole*; all Lyt. Chs. This name appears to have originated at a time when Norman-French was the courtly and legal language of the country. The French *la* is added to the A. S. *pōl*, M. E. *pole*, *pol*, *pool*—the pool. There are some large pools here adjacent to the river Stour; *v.* Lifford and Pull Court. A curious instance of the effect of a Norman *la* upon a pl. name

is Lasham, in Hampshire, D. *Esscham*, the homestead in the ash (trees). In 1284 a Norman scribe writes it *L-as-ham*, and Lasham becomes the name.

Larford, h., on right bank of Severn, 1 m. S. of Stourport. 706 *Leverford*, C. S. 171. It appears by the charter that there was a weir here for catching fish—'*ad vadum qui nuncupater Leverford*'; 1327 *Lorford*, S. R. A. S. *lǽfer-ford*—the rushy ford. The weir remains.

Larkborough, f., 1 m. SE. of Bretforton. 709 *Lauerke-hoerge*, C. S. 125. A. S. *lawerce-beorh*—lark hill; cp. *Lafercan beorh* (Lark Hill) in Evenlode, C. S. 1238; Lark Hill, 1 m. E. of Worcester; *Lafercan beorh* in Cutsdean, C. S. 1299; and *Omerlond*, C. S. 1298; *omer*=hammer=yellowhammer.

Laughern, or **Lawern,** h., **Lawern House, Lawern Farm, Laughern,** river, in Wichenford. 757 *Lawern*, C. S. 219; 970 *Lawern*, C. S. 1139; 985 *Lawern*, C. D. 699; in three other A. S. charters also *Lawern*; D. *Lavre* (? *v*=*u*). The river flows into the Teme 2 m. SW. of Worcester. Notwithstanding the early forms and their consistency, I am unable to interpret 'Lawern,' or to make any useful suggestion.

Leaden, river, South Worcestershire, tributary of the Severn. 972 *Ledene*, C. S. 1282; 978 *Ledene*, C. D. 619. I am unable to translate this. Ledbury and Upleadon (on its course) appear to derive their names from it.

Lea End, 2 m. N. of Alvechurch. D. *Lea* (berewick of Bromsgrove); 1275 *la Leye, i' th' lee, in the lee*, S. R. A. S. *lēah*, pasture (*v.* Ley). 'End' is a mod. addition, not meaning the 'end of the lea,' but its locality. *V.* End.

Lea Hall, in Yardley. 1275 Elyas *de la Lee*, Ranulph *atte Lee*, S. R.; 1746 *Lee hall*. The hall on the lea (*v.* Ley).

Leasowes (The), mansion and estate in Halesowen. *Læsu* is a word of uncertain origin, meaning 'meadow land.' It is regarded as dialectic, but is used throughout England.

Lechmere. There appears to have been a place so

named in Hanley Castle, now apparently obsolete, though probably giving name to an ancient county family. Reginald de *Lechemere*, Philip de *Lechemere*, and Richard de *Lechemere* are assessed to the S. R. of 1275, under Hanley. There seems to have been another 'Lechemere' in Hanbury, Richard *de Lechemere* being assessed to the 1327 S. R., under Hanbury. Nash, i. 560, says: 'This family (Lechmere) came out of the Low Countries, served under William the Conqueror, and obtained lands in Hanley called from them Lechmere's Place. . . Lech is a branch of the Rhine, which parts from it at Wyke, in the province of Utrecht, and running westward falls into the Maas before you come to Rotterdam. M. S. Thomas.' Then follows the pedigree, commencing apparently about 1250. This is a very unlikely story. The river in Holland, which 'Thomas' drags into it, is 'Lek,' not 'Lech.' What brought a Dutchman fighting under William? If he did so fight, how is it his name is not recorded in Domesday, or elsewhere before 1275? Then the name is unmistakeably Old English, and is recorded, not as a family name, but as a pl. name—'of Lechemere.' Family names only commenced to be used in the 13 c. *Leche, lache*, is a M. E. word, meaning a morass, swamp, bog, and *mere* is a pool; in compound 'a boggy pool or lake,' a swamp (*v.* Skeat's Notes on English Etymology, under 'Lake'); A, or B, '*de Leche*,' i. e. of the swamp, are common names in 13 c. records.

Leigh, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Worcester. D. *Lege* (*g*=*y*); 12 c. *Lega*; 1275 *Leya*, S. R. A. S. *leah*, pasture land (*v.* Ley).

Leigh Sinton, h., in Leigh. I do not doubt that Sinton is the name of some former owner of the hamlet, but I have been unable to discover any trace of the family. It is not once mentioned by Habington or Nash.

Lench, Linch, Lynch, Link, are frequent elements in pl. names. The root is A. S. *hlinc*, thus described by Seebohm (Village Communities, 5): 'A . . . peculiar feature of

the open field system in hilly districts is the "lynch," and it may often be observed remaining when every other trace of an open field has been removed by enclosure. Its right of survival lies in its indestructibility. When a hillside formed part of the open field the strips almost always were made to run, not up and down the hill, but horizontally along it; and in ploughing, the custom for ages was always to turn the sod of the furrow downhill, the plough consequently always returning one way idle. If the whole hillside were ploughed in one field, this would result in a gradual travelling of the soil from the top to the bottom of the field, and it might not be noticed. But as in the open field system the hillside was ploughed in strips with unploughed balks between them, no sod could pass in the ploughing from one strip to the next; but the process of moving the sod downwards would go on age after age just the same within each individual strip. In other words, every year's ploughing took a sod from the higher edge of the strip and put it on the lower edge; and the result was that the strips became in time long level terraces one above the other, and the balks between them grew into steep rough banks of long grass, covered often with natural self-sown brambles and bushes. These banks between the plough-made terraces are generally called *lynches*, or *linces*; and the word is often applied to the terraced strips themselves, which go by the name of "the linces."' The H. E. D. gives 'Linch, a rising ground, a ridge; a ledge; . . . an unploughed strip serving as a boundary.' There is difficulty in identifying the five Worcestershire 'Lenchs'' in A. S. charters. They are mentioned as *Lench*, *Hwitan Hlince*, *Lenc*, and *Lence* in C. S. 134, 511, 1241, and C. D. 637, 797. Cp. Whitlench in Hartlebury, Evelench, f. in Tibberton, Lench, f. in Inkberrow, Link End in Eldersfield, Malvern Link.

Lench (Abbots), or **Hob Lench,** h., 5 m. N. of Evesham. D. *Abelenc*; 1275 *Habbelenche*, *Lench Sacriste*, S. R. This

place never had an 'Abbot.' That word is only a modern interpretative corruption of its earlier prefix, which probably represents a p. n. (perhaps *Æbbe*), but the forms are scanty. For Lench, *v.* Lench, *ante.*

Lench (Atch), h., in Church Lench. D. *Achelenz*; 13 c. *Achelench.* Professor Skeat is of opinion that the D. *-ache* here represents an A. S. *hæcce* (dat. of *hæc*), Mod. Eng. *hatch*, a half door which may be closed while the upper half is open; also any small gate or wicket. Cp. Colney Hatch, Hatch Beauchamp in Somersets., and Falstaff speaks of 'the manor of Pickt-*Hatch*,' Merry Wives, ii. 2. *V.* Skeat's Place-Names of Herts, *s.* Steven*age*, where the terminal represents an original *hæcce* (*ce*=*ch*). It appears from a Lyt. Ch., No. 24, 13 c., that there was then, in Church Lench, a h. named *Acheton*, apparently now obsolete. For Lench, *v.* Lench, *ante.*

Lench (Church), $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Evesham. D. *Circelenz*; 13 c. *Chirchelench.* A. S. *circe*, church—Church Lench. D. records a priest here, and there was doubtless a church, hence the name. For Lench, *v.* Lench, *ante.*

Lench (Rouse), 5 m. N. of Fladbury. D. *Biscopesleng*; A. S. *Biscopes*, Bishop's, because the manor belonged to the bishops of Worcester as superior lords. It was afterwards *Lench Randolf*, from Randolf de Lench who, in the 12 c., held the manor as under-lord; from his descendants it passed to the Rouse (Rufus) family, whence it took the name of Rouse Lench. For Lench, *v.* Lench, *ante.*

Lench (Sheriffs), h., in Church Lench. D. *Lenche*; 1275 *Shirrevelench*; 13 c. *Shyrrevelench*; 1332 *Lench Vicecomitis*, S. R. The Beauchamps, through Urse d'Abitot, (the D. tenant, and Sheriff of Worcestershire) were hereditary sheriffs and held this manor; hence *Shyrreve*, sheriff. Some meadows here are called 'Sheriffs Leasows.' For Lench, *v.* Lench, *ante.*

Lenchwick, h., in Norton, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Evesham. 709 *Lenchwic*, C. S. 125; 714 *Lencuuicke*, C. S. 130; D. *Lench-*

wic; 1275 *Lenchwyk*, S. R.—Lench village; *v.* Lench, *ante*, and Wich.

Leopards (or **Lippards**) **Grange, Leopard Wood, Leopard Hill,** 2 m. NE. of Worcester. 969, C. S. 1240, *thæt ūp on thone hyll be hionan lippard* (then up on the hill on this side of lipperd); 972 *ondlong geardes thæt in lipperdes gemære* (along the 'yard' (I do not know in what sense this word is used) thence to the boundary of lipperd), C. D. 681; 1275 *Lippard*, S. R.; 16 c. *Lypperde*. It is not 'leopard'; that is an O. F. word, not used here till the 14 c., nor is it an A. S. word. It may be a hill or river name in some prior language.

Ley, Leigh, Lea, Ly, Lay. These common terminals are from A. S. *leah*, gen. and dat. *leage* (*g*=*y*), M. E. *ley, leye, lay, le*, open untilled land used as pasture, the unenclosed parts of a manor, which might be grassy, bushy, woody, or varied. For brevity I translate the forms as 'pasture.'

Leys (The), h., in Alvechurch. 1275 William *de la Leye*, Edith *de la Leye*, John *hi y^e^ lee*, Nicholas *in the Lee*, S. R. *V.* Ley.

Leys (The), in Mathon. 1275 Robert *de la Lee*, Roger *de la Lye*, S. R. *V.* Ley.

Libbery, h., in Grafton Flyford (1 m. SW. of). 972 *Hleobyri*, C. S. 1282; 1327 *Leobury*, S. R. A. S. *hleo*, refuge—the burh (*v.* Bury) of refuge; but *Hleoburh* (gen. *burge*, dat. *byri*) was a fem. p. n. (only once recorded) and *may* be the root here. It is however unlikely, as a p. n. nearly always carries a suffix, like *-ton, -ham, -wick*, &c.

Lickey Hills (The), near Bromsgrove. 1330 *John de Bysshopeston tenuit balliam forestarie de Leckheye*, I. P. M.; 1386 *Leckhey*. This is a Celtic survival, common in the names of hills and rivers; it is W. *Llech* (pl. *Llechi*), I. and G. *lic, leac*, a flag- (flat) stone. In Ireland *Lick-* is a frequent prefix, e. g. Lickmolassey, the flagstone of (Saint) Molaise, Lickeen, little rock, Lickfinn, white flagstone; in Scotland

Leck- and *Lic-* are also common; in England Leek in Staffordshire, and Lickhill in Durham, are examples. On a portion of the Lickey Hills the rocks are exposed and laminated. The terminal *hey* in the forms is used in the sense of a division of a forest for administrative purposes (*v.* Hay). I read the meaning as 'the Hay of the flagstones.' The 'forest of Lickhay' does not appear to have formed any portion of Feckenham Forest, to which it adjoined, and its history has never been dealt with.

Lickhill, ancient estate, 1 m. W. of Stourport. 1696 *Lickill*; 1799 *Lickey, Lickhill.* This place lies in a meadow on Severn side. I doubt if the terminal is *hill*; it is more likely to be *ey*, a M. E. form of *ea*, running water; but the forms are too late for judgement. *V.* Lickey Hills.

Lifford, h., in Kingsnorton (1 m. N. of). The S. R. for 1275, sub Norton, record Adam de *la Forde*, Thomas de *la Forde*, and Richard de *la Forde.* The h. is situate on the Icknield Street, where it crosses a stream. 'Lifford' is not once mentioned by Habington or Nash, or in any earlier record; I think it is a modern compound of *La forde* (*v.* Lappal, and Ford).

Lightwoods. Lower Lightwood, Little Lightwood, Middle Lightwood, Upper Lightwood, in Cotheridge. *Light* represents A. S. *hlith*, M. E. *lith, lyth*, a slope, hillside; a final *th* commonly becomes *t*; *v.* Hanger. Cp. Lyth, *post.*

Linch, *v.* **Lench.**

Lincomb, h., in Hartlebury (2 m. SW. of Stourport). 706 *Lincumbe*, C. S. 116; 15 c. *Lynkcombe.* A. S. *līn cumb*, the flax valley.

Lindon, h., in Kingsnorton. 1275 *La Lynde* (2), S. R.; 1332 *La Lynde*, S. R. A. S. *lind*, the lime (or linden) tree. The terminal *don* is a mod. addition, or may represent an earlier *-den.* *V.* Lindon, *post.*

Lindon, Upper and **Lower,** in Rock. 1275 *Lindene*,

S. R. A. S. *lind*, the lime (or linden) tree, and *denu*, valley.

Lindridge, 7 m. E. of Tenbury. D. *Linde*; 1275 *Linderugge*, S. R. A. S. *Lind*, the lime-tree, and *hryeg*, M. E. *rugge*—the lime-tree ridge.

Lineholt, h., **Lineholt Common,** 2 m. S. of Hartlebury. 14 c. 'The wood called *Lynholt*, where is a common of pasture of the whole country' (translation), Hab. 282. I have no doubt the form represents an earlier *Lind-holt*, 'linden (lime-tree) wood.' Shakespeare (Temp. v. 1) writes: 'In the *line*-grove which weather-fends your cell.'

Linthurst, h., in Bromsgrove. A. S. *lindhyrst*—the lime-tree wood. Cp. Lyndhurst, in Hampshire.

Lint Mill, in Bromsgrove. A lint-mill is a flax-mill, flax and lint being related.

Littleton (North), Littleton (Middle), Littleton (South), 4 m. NE. of Evesham. 709 *Littletone*, C. S. 125; 714 *Lytletun et alia Litletun*, C. S. 130; 10 c. *thry lytlen tūnes* (three little towns), 3 C. D., p. 395; 986 *Lutletone, Lytletun*, C. D. 654; D. *Liteltune*. A. S. *lytel*, M. E. *lytel, luttel*, &c., little, and *tūn*, town (*v.* Ton)—Little town.

Littleworth, h., in Norton-by-Kempsey. Little farm (*v.* Worth).

Loggerheads, f. in Hanbury. *Loggerheads* is a Midland name for the Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), which flourishes on wet land. Much of it has disappeared under modern drainage.

Longdon, 2½ m. SW. of Upton-on-Severn. 972 *Langdune*, C. S. 1281; 972 *Longandune, Langandune* (datives), C. S. 1282; 1046 *Langdune*, C. D. 804; D. *Longdune*. A. S. *Lang-dūn*, long hill (*v.* Don).

Longdon, h., 1 m. SW. of Tredington, near Shipston-on-Stour. D. *Longedun*; 1275 *Longedon*, S. R. A. S. *Lang-dūn*, Long hill (*v.* Don).

Long Eye, h., in Bromsgrove. 972 *Longaneye* (dat.), C. D. 570; 1275 *Langleye*, S. R. The early form yields

'long island,' and is consistent with the mod. form. The form of 1275 is produced by dissimilation of the second *n* to *l*, a common change. The word 'island' was formerly applied to elevated land, nearly or quite surrounded by a marsh, and to 'watery land' (*v.* Ey).

Lovington, h., in Hallow (1 m. SW. of). Probably A. S. fem. p. n. *Lufu* (whence surname *Love*), late gen. *Lufan*. An A. S. *Lufantūn* would produce a mod. Lovington—Lufu's town (*v.* Ton). Lovington, in Somersetshire, was *Lufandun*, Lufa's hill, in 854, *Lofintune* in 1046, and *Lovintone* in D.

Low, a common terminal, from A. S. *hlāw*, M. E. *lawe*, *lowe*, a mound, hillock; but, in pl. names, may always be read 'burial-mound,' 'barrow.'

Lowe (The), f., in Wolverley. 1275 *de la Lowe* (2), *atte Lowe*, S. R. *V.* Low.

Low Hill, h., 1 m. SE. of Spetchley. 977 *Oswaldes hlaw*, C. D. 612. *V.* Oswaldslow.

Low Hill, in Hartlebury; **The Low Farm,** in Abbots Morton; **The Low,** h., in Church Lench. *V.* Low.

Low Hill Farm, in Cofton Hacket. A. S. *hlāw*, M. E. *lawe*, *lowe*, a burial mound. In a charter of 849 relating to Cofton Hacket, C. S. 451, 'the two small barrows by south of Coenberht's grave' are referred to as on the bounds of Cofton. This farm is on the bounds, and is probably the locality referred to. The country (it is part of the Lickey) seems to have been very wild, 'heath,' 'thicket,' 'moor,' 'mere,' 'wood,' 'the roe's lair,' 'the hart's wallowing place,' 'the red slough,' being part of its description.

Luckalls Farm, in Alfric. 1275 *Lokewelle*, S. R.; 1327 *Locwelle*, S. R.; 1340 *Locwalle*. The terminal is M. E. *welle*, a spring; A. S. *loc*, M. E. *loc*, *lock*, in pl. names, means an enclosed or locked-in place (e.g. the lock on a canal). Exs.: Wen*lock*, Por*lock*, *Lock*inge, *Lock*ton. The word is allied to G. *loch*, I. *lough*, a land-locked body of water. The meaning here I take to be an enclosed spring.

Lude, Luyde. This is a M. E. word, frequently found in pl. names, the meaning of which appears to be unknown. It is found in the Worcestershire S. R. of 1275 as W. *atte Lude*, under Abbots Morton, de *Ludeton*, under Aldington, de *Ludesbury*, *Lodesbury*, under Bellbroughton; in the S. R. of 1327 as J. *atte Lude*, under Inkberrow, R. *atte Lude*, under Sapey Pichard. In the Lyt. Ch., 1367, we find W. *atte Luyde*, and J. *atte Luyde* de Roulegh (Rowley); in a Halesowen deed W. *atte Luyde* de Cradeley, 1371. In Staffordshire in the 13 and 14 c. it is found as *Lude*, *Luyde*, *in the Lude*, *men of the Lude*, *the field of the Lude*, *at the Lude*, *of the pit of the Lude*, now represented by Lloyd House, 4 m. S. of Wolverhampton. D. records two *Lude*, one *Ludes*, *Ludebroc*, *Ludeburg*, *Ludecerce*, *Ludecote*, five *Ludesforde*, four *Ludewelle*, *Ludewic*, and other places commencing *Lud-* and *Lude*. The word must be A. S. as *Ludepol juxta Severne* is found in C. D. 654. Cp. Ludlow.

Lulsley, h., 7 m. E. of Bromyard. *Lull* was an A. S. p. n. Probably Lull's lea (*v.* Ley).

Lutley (Upper), Lutley (Lower), Lutley Mill, h., in Halesowen. D. *Ludeleia*; 1275 *Ledeleye*, *Lodeley*, S. R.; 1327 *Lodeley*; 1349 *the field of Lodeley called Shortwode*; 1365 *the manor of Lutteleye*, Lyt. Ch. The prefix is plainly *Lude* (q. v.) (*v.* also Ley).

Lydiate, h., in Bellbroughton (½ m. S. of), a common name. A. S. *hlidgeat* (*g*=*y*), M. E. *lidyate*, a swing gate, a gate set up between pasture and arable land, or across a highway.

Lydiate Ash, h., in Bromsgrove (3 m. N. of). *V.* Lydiate, *ante.*

Lydiate Lane, Halesowen. 13 c. *Nonemonnes Lydegate*, Lyt. Ch.; 1432 *lying between ... & the highway leading from Hales to Nomonslideyate.* 'No man's gate.' *V.* Lydiate, *ante.*

Lye (The), Lye Cross, Lye Waste, hamlets, in or near Cradley. *Lye* is only a M. E. form of *ley* (q. v.) (untilled

land, pasture). In the Lyt. Ch. 13, 14, and 15 c. the name appears as *Lye, Lyegh, Lyghe, Lee, Leeh.*

Lyndeworth, in Northfield or Yardley. D. *Lindeorde* (berewick of Bromsgrove); 1275 *Lyndeworthe*, S. R. *s.* Northfield. The terminal *-orde* in the D. form must be read *worthe*, the Normans writing *d* for a medial or final *th*, and not using *w* before *o* or *u*. A. S. *Lindworth*, the farm of the lime-tree.

Lyth (The), h., in Ombersley. A. S. *hlith*, a slope, hillside; cp. Lightwoods, *ante.*

Madresfield, 6 m. SW. of Worcester. 12 c. *Medeleffeld*; 1275 *Madresfelde*, S. R. 'The forms are scanty, but I think they yield us an A. S. *Mæth-heres feld*—Mæthhere's field. Norman scribes wrote *d* for a medial *th*, which they could not pronounce, hence the modern form *Mæthhere* is a recorded p. n.' (Skeat.)

Malvern (Great), Malvern (Little). D. *Malferne*; 13, 14, and 15 c. *Malverne*, occasionally latinized to *Malvernie*. Not mentioned in any A. S. charter. I think this name has its root in some archaic language. I can make no useful suggestion.

Malvern Link, in Great Malvern. 1275 *Lynche*, S. R.; 1327 *atte Lynke*, S. R. *V.* Malvern, and Lench, *ante.*

Mamble, 6 m. W. of Bewdley. 957 *Momela*, C. S. 1007; D. *Mamele*; 1275 *Momele.* There is a dialectic verb 'to mamble, momble, mumble,' M. E. *mamelen, momelen*, meaning 'to talk nonsense, jumble together, stammer,' and the addition of *r* would make it a substantive; but its application to a pl. name is unlikely; it is not recorded in A. S. There is no other Mamble known.

Mare Furlong Farm, in Blockley. The homestead stands on the boundary of the counties of Worcester and Warwick. A. S. *mære*, a mere or boundary. *V.* Furlong.

Marl Cliff, h., and **Marl Cliff Hill,** in Cleeve Prior.

a. 872, *Marnan Clive*; later A. S. *Maranclive*, *Mearnanclif*, *Mernanclive*. The *l* in Marl seems a mod. addition. The map to Nash's Worcestershire, c. 1790, gives 'Mar Cleeve,' as does Taylor's map of Worcestershire, 1772. Nash, i. 236, says: 'Here are quarries of very good stone . . .; some of it bears a very fine polish, like Derbyshire marble. . . . By means of the Avon large quantities of it are sent to distant parts.' A. S. *marman clif*, marble cliff.

Martin-Hussingtree, 3 m. SW. of Droitwich. 972 in *Meretune, in Husentreo*, C. S. 1282; D. *Husentree*; 1275 *Hosintre and Merton*, S. R. Formerly in two manors, united between 972 and the date of D. A. S. *mere*, a pool, lake—Pool town (*v.* Ton). *Husantreo* (dat.), Hussa's tree. The dat. *an* commonly becomes *ing*.

Martley, 8 m. NW. of Worcester. D. *Mertelai, Merlie*; 1275 *Mertelee*, S. R. Our word 'mart,' a place of trade, is M. E., a mere contraction of 'market,' and was not used at the time of D. Professor Skeat suggests it may be M. E. *mart*, from A. S. *mearth*, a marten = Marten lea; *v.* Ley.

Mathon, 3 m. W. of Great Malvern. D. *Matma*; 1275 *Mathine*, S. R.; 15 c. *Mathan*. Another incomprehensible name. The prefix *Math-* looks like W.; cp. Mathern, and Mathavarn, both in Wales.

Mearse (The), f., in Bromsgrove (2 m. NE. of); **Mearse Farm,** in Bellbroughton. *Mearse* may be a form of A. S. *mersc*, M. E. *mersche*, a marsh; but if so it is irregular.

Melly, h., in Halesowen. 12 c. *Melley*; 13 and 14 c. *Meleford, Melele, Melley*, all Lyt. Ch. *Mell, Mele*, are M. E. forms of Mill, A. S. *mylen*—the Mill lea (*v.* Ley).

Meneatt Wood, in Abberley. John *Meneye* is assessed to the S. R. in 1327, sub Lindridge, an adjacent parish, and Stephen de *Menyate*, sub Mamble and Sodington. The terminal is, I think, M. E. *yate* (A. S. *geat*), a gate, but the prefix is too corrupt to rely upon; cp. Menith Wood.

Menith Wood, in Lindridge (2 m. E. of). 13 c. *Menhey*

wood, Le Menhey; 1718 *Meneth Wood.* The terminal seems to be 'hay' (q. v.), but the prefix is corrupt; *v.* Meneatt Wood.

Mere Brook, forms the boundary between Hanley Castle and Welland. 'Boundary brook.' A. S. *mære,* M. E. *mere, meer,* a boundary.

Mere Ditch, or **St. Adborough's Ditch,** Seven Wells Farm, on the Cotswolds, forms the boundary of Broadway, and also the boundary between Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. c. 1450 *Seynt Adboroughes Dyche, alias Mere Dyche.* Broadway belonged to the Abbey of Pershore; the monks doubtless dug the ditch to mark their boundary, and named it after their patron saint, Eadburh (fem.). This was a common practice with them. The ditch is now almost effaced by a wall. A. S. *mære,* a boundary.

Merry Brook, falls into Avon at Cropthorne. An old meaning of 'merry' was 'pleasant, delightful.' 'Merry' England does not mean merry in the sense of jocund, mirthful.

Middleton Hall Farm, in Northfield (between Northfield and Kingsnorton). John *de Middleton* is a frequent witness to charters relating to Northfield, Frankley, &c. in the 13 c. Lyt. Ch.; John *de Middleton* and Alicia *de Middleton* are assessed to the 1275 S. R. *s.* Weley and Selley. The family here clearly took its name from the place, which means Middle town (*v.* Ton).

Milestone. There is a curious entry in C. S. 219, a. 757, which refers to *Wic* (probably Powick), on the W. side of Severn, and about a mile from Worcester: 'From the burn to *mila stane,* from the stone to the *haran* (boundary) apple-tree; from the apple-tree to Doferic (a stream), from Doferic to Severn, and along Severn to Teme mouth.' This milestone must have been a Roman one, the A. S. never using such things. It probably marked the first mile from Worcester to Kenchester, a Roman Station 5½ m. NW. of

Hereford. I do not think that a milestone is recorded in any other A. S. charter.

Mitton, now commonly called Stourport. 841 *Myttun*, C. S. 433; D. *Mettune*; 1275 *Mutton*, S. R.; 1327 *Mutton*, S. R. A. S. (*ge*)*mythan*, a derivative of *muthan*, a junction of streams (sometimes of roads). The *ge* dropped off in late A. S. In M. E. the forms are generally *Mutton*, later *Mitton*, or *Mytton*. Sweet (Student's A. S. Dict.) correctly gives the meaning as 'waters-meet.' A few places retain the older form *Mythe*, alone or as a prefix. At this place the Stour falls into Severn. *V.* Ton, and Mitton, *post.*

Mitton, chapelry in Bredon, 1½ m. NE. of Tewkesbury. 964 *Myttune*, C. S. 1134; 965 *Muctone*, C. S. 1106; 1033 *Mytune*, C. D. 751; in other charters *Muctune*, *Muttune*, *Mytton*, *Mitune*, *Mitton* (the *c* is a mistake for *t*, those letters in A. S. being much alike); D. *Mitune*; 1275 *Mutton*, S. R. This hamlet lies at the junction of Carant Brook with the Avon. On the opposite side of the Avon, at its junction with Severn, is 'The Mythe.' *V.* Mitton, *ante*, and Ton.

Moneyhall, or **Monyhull Hall,** in Kingsnorton (1½ m. E. of), moated. 1275 R. de *Monhulle*, S. R.; 16 c. *Monihills* (belonged to the college of Westbury, near Bristol). The terminal is 'hill' (M. E. *hull*), but I cannot translate the prefix. It is probably corrupt.

Monkwood, a large wood in Grimley parish, 4 m. NW. of Worcester. 1275 *Monckeswode*, S. R.; 17 c. *Munke wood.* It belonged to the monastery of Worcester; hence the name.

Monsieur's Hall, 1 m. W. of Bromsgrove, so called because during the French Revolutionary Wars (1793–1815) it was occupied for some years by a refugee gentleman.

Moor, in Rock. D. *More*; 1275 *Mora*, S. R. A. S. *mōr*, a moor, swamp.

Moor, h., in Fladbury, 2 m. NE. of Pershore. D. *More.* A. S. *mōr*, a moor, swamp.

Moor End Farm, Moor End Cross, in Mathon. 1275

Philipp de la *Morend*, William *de la More*, S. R. (*v.* Moor, *ante*).

Moor Green Hall, in Kingsnorton, is probably referred to in the S. R. of 1275, *s.* Northfield, in 'John *in the More*,' 'Peter *above the More*,' 'Roger *above the More*.' *V.* More.

Mopsons Cross, h., 2½ m. SW. of Bewdley. There is a curious entry in D. which perhaps accounts for this name. Under the head of 'Land of Roger de Laci' in 'Doddingtree Hundred,' the manors of Stockton and Stanford are recorded; then, under 'Ash Hundred,' follow the manors of Shelve, Kington, and Martley; and at the bottom of the page, an evident addition, is 'The same Roger has half a hide in (Droit) Wich, Aluric *mapesone* held it. There are eleven burgesses, and one salt pan and a half, rendering 32 mittas and a half. This manor belongs to his manor of Hereford.' Then follow the records of other manors in Doddingtree Hundred, in which Mopsons Cross is situate. Perhaps 'Aluric *mapesone*' is the man referred to by 'Mopsons Cross.' The hamlet stands at cross roads.

More, Moor, common terminals, from A. S. *mōr* (*moor*), M. E. *mōr*, *more*, *moore*. The word is usually applied to waste, swampy land; but sometimes to high, waste ground, untimbered.

Morton Folliot, *v.* Castle Morton.

Morton Underhill, h., in Inkberrow (1¼ m. N. of). 990 *Mortune*, C. D. 674; 1275 *Mortone*, S. R.; 1326 *Morton Underhull*. A. S. *Mōrtūn*, moor or fen town. *Underhull*, under the hill, is a M. E. addition, given to distinguish it from other Mortons. The village lies at the foot of a considerable ridge.

Moseley, h., 2½ m. S. of Birmingham. D. *Museleie*, one of the 18 berewicks of Bromsgrove (including Kingsnorton). The D. form is not to be relied upon, as *mūs* means a mouse; Moseley is a very common name, generally found in A. S. as *Mosleage*, a moss or marsh lea. *V.* Moseley, *post*.

Moseley, h., in Hallow, 3 m. NW. of Worcester. 816 *Moseleage in Subbingwic,* C. S. 357; 851 *Mosleage,* C. S. 462; 961 *Mosleage,* C. S. 1139. A. S. *mōsleage,* a mossy or marshy lea (*v.* Ley).

Moundesley Hall, 1 m. SE. of Kingsnorton. *Mundes dene* (Mund's valley) is mentioned in a charter describing the bounds of Yardley, C. D. 570, a. 972, but this place is quite 2 m. from the bounds of Yardley. *Mund* was an A. S. p. n., probably here represented.

Mucken Hill, h., 4 m. SE. of Worcester. D. *Mucenhill*; 1275 *Mokenhulle,* S. R.; 1346 *Mokenhulle,* S. R. *Muca* was an A. S. p. n., of which *Mucan* would be the gen. form—Muca's hill.

Mucklow Hill, in Halesowen. 1424 John *Moghlowe, Mokelowe,* Thomas in le Hay, als *Moklowe*; 15 c. *Moughlow, Muklow,* John *Moughlowe,* de hulle—all Lyt. Ch. The forms are late, and do not afford material for accurate judgement, but an A. S. *Mucan-hlæw*—Muca's low, or burial mound—would be a likely root; *v.* Low.

Murrell's End, h., in Redmarley d'Abitot. 1459 *Morehelde End,* alias *Morellynde.* The first form is clearly Moor-slope-end (*v.* More, and End); *held* is a M. E. word (variants *hield, heeld*) for a hillside, slope. It is rarely found in pl. names, but we still speak of the *heel* over of a grounded ship; *v.* H. E. D. *s.* Hield. *Morellynde* is a good example of mediaeval corruption.

Nafford, in Birlingham, 3 m. S. of Pershore. D. *Nadford,* afterwards *Nafford.* The ford (*v.* Ford) doubtless refers to the crossing of the Avon here. I am unable to make anythink of the prefix *Nad-,* either as a p. n., or an A. S. word; it is probably corrupt. There is no other Nadford or Nafford in England.

Napleton, h., in Kempsey (½ m. SE. of). 1275 *Appelton,* S. R.; 1327 *Appelton,* S. R. This is plain Apple town

(=Orchard town) (*v.* Ton). The initial *N* is 'transferred.' A. S. *æt tham*=M. E. *at ten* (both meaning 'at the'); then the *n* is transferred, and we get 'atte Nappelton,' the *atte* finally being discarded. Cp. Noverton, Norchard, Nurton. In the S. R. for 1327 we find 'atte Novene,' 'atte Nelme,' which would originally be 'at ten Oven,' 'at ten Elm,' at the Oven, at the Elm.

Nash (The), h., in Kempsey (1 m. S. of). 12 c. *Robertus de Fraxino* (Robert of the Ash); 1316 *Atenasche, Le Asche.* This is an instance of a transferred *N*. From M. E. *at ten ash* =at the ash, we get *atte Nash*, and finally *Nash*. *V.* Napleton, Noverton, Norchard, &c. The name is a common one for hamlets, or single houses, but, being of late M. E. origin, is not manorial. Referring to the first form it is well to mention that mediaeval scribes translated pl. names, or p. names, the meaning of which was understood, into the language of the document they were writing, so that names appeared in A. S., L., N. F., or M. E. garbs, according to the fashion of the day, and a landed family might find their charters describing them as 'de Bosco,' 'æt Hurst,' 'en le Greve,' or 'atte Wode,' all meaning 'of the wood.'

Naunton, h., in Ripple (1 m. N. of). 1275 *Newinton*, S. R.; 1327 *Newynton*, S. R. The nom. A. S. form would be *Nēowa-tūn*, new town (*v.* Ton); but the dat. (and most pl. names are moulded on dat. forms) would be *æt thæm Nēowan-tūne*—at the New town. Generally these forms become Newton, Newington, or Newnton; but in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire (nowhere else) always Naunton, doubtless under dialectic influence. It will be observed that the change took place after 1327.

Naunton, h., in Severn Stoke. 1275 *Newinton*, S. R.; *v.* Naunton, *ante.*

Naunton Beauchamp, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Pershore. 972 *in Niwantune*, C. S. 1282; D. *Newentune*; 1275 *Newynton*,

S. R. The Beauchamps held the manor for some centuries, and their name was subsequently added to distinguish it from other Nauntons. *V.* Naunton, *ante.*

Nemmings, or **Nymings,** a wood in Churchill, near Kidderminster. 1420 *Saundres Nemyngs,* Lyt. Ch. *Nemung* (correctly *nimung*) is a rare A. S. word (M. E. *nimen, nyman*), 'a taking by force,' and in pl. names 'an enclosure from the waste.' These enclosures were always going on, and were termed, in different localities, Ridding, Royd, Falling, Breach, Birch, Stubbock, Assart, Newland, &c. *V.* Nimmings Farm.

Netherton, h., 2½ m. SW. of Pershore. 780 *Neotheretune,* C. S. 235; D. *Neotheretune.* This is nether (lower) town, as compared with some other 'ton' which stood relatively above it, and which might be called Overton (A. S. *ofertūn*), Over, Upper, town.

Netherton, h., in Dudley; **Netherton,** h., in Ribbesford; **Netherton,** h., in Abberley. *V.* Netherton, *ante.*

Newbold-on-Stour, in Tredington, 4 m. from Shipston-on-Stour. 991 *Nioweboldan* (dat. pl.), C. D. 676; 12 c. *Newebolt*; 1275 *Newebold,* S. R. A. S. *Niowe bold,* new house. This is a common name; in the North it appears as New*bald* and New*biggin, biggin* being the Norse equivalent for *bold.*

Newland, h., 2½ m. NE. of Great Malvern. 1275 *Nova Terra* (Newland), S. R. This means a new enclosure from the waste, or forest, which encircled all our early settlements.

Newlands Farm (moated), 3 m. SE. of Worcester, in Norton juxta Kempsey. 1275 *Newelond,* S. R. *V.* Newland, *ante.*

Newnham, in Lindridge, near Tenbury. 1007 *Neowanham,* C. S. 957; 1043 *Neowenham,* C. D. 916; 1066 *Neowanham,* C. D. 952. 'New home, or village' (*v.* Ham); the forms are in the dat. case.

Nimmings Farm, in Cofton Hacket. *V.* Nemmings.

Noake (The), ancient estate in Martley. 1327 *Robert de Noke*, S. R.—at the Oak. *V.* Nash.

Nobury (Great and **Little)**, hamlets in Inkberrow (1 m. SE. of). 1356 *Newborough, Novus burgus*; 1416 *Newberry*; 1690 *Newberry*. This, according to rule, should be Newbury=New *burh* (*v.* Bury).

Noken Farm, in Grimley. 15 c. *Nokenham*. For the terminal, *v.* Ham. *Noke* is a M. E. form of *nook*, a corner, secluded place; but by the 15 c. *Noke, Noak*, had become a family name. I incline to read it 'the village or dwelling in the nook,' but the medial *n* in the form is perplexing. *Noke* was not an A. S. p. n., but a M. E. one, coined from 'at ten Oke.' *V.* Nash.

Norchard (Upper and **Lower)**, in Rock (1½ m. S. of). 1327 *atte Norchard*, S. R. The *N* is transferred, and the right name is 'Orchard'; *v.* Napleton. There was, in 1332, a 'Norchard' in Severn Stoke, and there is a Norchard House in Peopleton.

Norchard, h., in Hartlebury (1 m. S. of). 1327 *atte Norchard*, S. R. *V.* Norchard, *ante*.

Norgrove, in Feckenham (2 m. N. of). 1379 *Northgrave*, later *Northgrave*, and *Norgrove*,—Northgrove (A. S. *grāf*, M. E. *grove*, a grove, small wood).

Northampton, h., in Ombersley (1½ m. NW. of). I assume it to be an old name as there are many -hamptons in Ombersley and Astley. It means North-home-town. *V.* Ham, Ton, and Hampton.

Northfield, 6 m. S. of Birmingham. D. *Nordfeld*; 12 and 13 c. *Nortfeld, Norfeld, Norfeud, Northfeld*—North field (*v.* Field).

Northingtown, h., in Suckley. 1275 *Northinton*; 1327 *Northinton*, S. R. The original form would be *æt tham Northan tūne*, at the North town. Cp. Northington, h., in Holt.

North Littleton, *v.* Littleton.

North Piddle, *v.* Piddle (North).

Northwick, h., in Claines, 2 m. N. of Worcester. c. 1108 *Northwike*; D. *Norwiche*; 1275 *Northwyk*, S. R.—North village. *V.* Wich.

Northwick, h., in Blockley, 2½ m. NW. of Moreton Henmarsh. 964 *Northwic*, C. S. 1134; 1275 *Northwyk*, S. R.—North village. *V.* Wich.

Northwood, 1 m. N. of Bewdley. 1275 *Northwode*, S. R.—Northwood (M. E. *wode*), which meant 'wild land'—brushwood, moor, or timber.

Norton, h., in Kempsey (2 m. NE. of). 1275 *Nortone*, S. R.; 13, 14, and 15 c. *Norton.*—North town (*v.* Ton).

Norton, on the Avon, 3 m. N. of Evesham. 709 *Norton*, C. S. 125; D. *Nortune.* Sometimes called *Abbots Norton*, because it belonged to the Abbots of Evesham.—North town (*v.* Ton).

Norton, h., in Oldswinford, near Stourbridge. *V.* Nortons, *ante.*

Norton-by-Bredon, or **Bredons Norton,** h., in Bredon. 780 *Northtun*, C. S. 236; 989 *Northtun*, C. D. 670; D. *Nortune.*—North town (*v.* Ton).

Noverton, h., and **Noverton Farm,** in Stanford-on-Teme (1 m. S. of). Nash, i. 248, calls this 'Overton,' and afterwards 'Overton or Noverton.' The initial *N* is transferred, and we must read this as in A. S. *Ofertūn*, M. E. *Overton*—Upper town (*v.* Ton and Napleton, Nash, Noake, Norchard, and Nurton). Cp. Noverton, in Prestbury, N. Gloucestershire. *Nover* is not an English word, and has no meaning. It is noteworthy that all instances of a transferred *N* are confined to hamlets, or single dwellings. Manors, being recorded in D., and from time to time in official documents, are less liable to change.

Nunnery Wood, in Inkberrow; so named because the land belonged to the nuns of Cookhill (q. v.), in Inkberrow, from the 12th c. to the time of the Dissolution, c. 1536.

Nunnery Wood, in Westwood, belonged to the nuns of Westwood, a Benedictine cell subject to the Abbey of Fontevrault, in France.

Nunnery Wood, and **Nunnery Farm,** 2 m. E. of Worcester, in St. Martin's parish, belonged to a Benedictine nunnery in Claines; the nuns, from their dress, gave name to Aston White Ladies (q. v).

Nurton Farm, 1 m. W. of Abberley. 1327 W. *atte Noverton*; C. *atte Overton*, S. R. In the same S. R. this place appears as Overton and Noverton, showing that in 1327 the *n* was dropping off the old form of *atten* and attaching itself to the following *O* (*v.* Napleton, Norchard, Nash, Noake, and Noverton). The right form here is *Overton*, earlier *Ofertūn*, and the meaning Upper town, as opposed to Netherton. In M. E. *v* between vowels was commonly written *u*; hence *Nouerton*, and finally Nurton. There is a Nurton, h., in Pattingham, Staffordshire, which has precisely the same history.

Nuthurst, in Bellbroughton. 1275 *Notehurst*, S. R. A. S. *hnut-hurst*, M. E. *Notehurst*—Nut wood.

Nymings, *v.* Nemmings.

Oakhampton, h., in Astley. 1275 *Okhamtone*, S. R. This is Oak-home-town (M. E. *ok, oke*—oak). The *p* is intrusive.

Ockeridge Wood, Ockeridge Waste, in Little Witley. 1332 *Ocrugge*, S. R. *Oc-, Ocke-*, probably represent a M. E. form for 'Oak.' The terminal is M. E. *rugge* (A. S. *hricg*), a ridge (of hilly land)=the Oak ridge.

Oddingley, 3 m. S. of Droitwich. 816 *Oddingalea*, C. S. 356; 963 *Odduncalea, Oddunggalea*, C. S. 1108; D. *Odduncle*i; 1275 *Oddingeleye*, S. R. The terminal is *ley* (q. v.), untilled land, pasture. *Odding* is not a recorded A. S. p. n., but *Odda* is, and the *inga* I think is patronymic, giving us 'the lea land of the sons (or descendants) of Odda.' There were several magnates of that name connected with Worcestershire,

but the men who held the plough also wrote their names upon the land.

Offas Well, h., 1½ m. NW. of Bromsgrove (on O. M., 1831, 'Offads well'). This should be 'Orford's well,' from a family named Orford, who occupied the cottage adjoining the spring during the early part of the 19th c.

Offenham, 2 m. N. of Evesham. 714 *Vffaham,* C. S. 130; 860 *Uffenham,* C. D. 289; D. *Offenham*; 1275 *Offenham*; 1327 *Offenham,* S. R.; 1332 *Uffenham,* S. R. The omission of the gen. *n* in the first form is probably only contraction as practised by mediaeval scribes; the original charter has perished, and only late copies remain. It is difficult to say whether we must read this as 'the home of *Offa*, or *Uffa*,' both being A. S. p. names, or variants of the same name. ('Probably *Uffa*, written *Offe* by Normans: they wrote *o* for *u*, but not *u* for *o*.' Skeat.) The Abbot is said to have had a house here.

Offerton Farm, in Hindlip, 4 m. NE. of Worcester. 972 *Ælflædetūn,* C. D. 570 (then belonged to Pershore Abbey); D. *Alcrintune*? (Bishop of Worcester); 1275 *Alfverton,* S. R.; 16 c. *Alcrinton,* now called *Alfreton*; 18 c. *Affreton.* I am not sure that the D. *Alcrintune* represents this Offerton, but Habington, Nash, and Mr. Round (Hist. of Worcestershire) accept the identity. The first form is doubtless the correct one. *Ælflæd* (for Ælf-flæd) was a fem. A. S. p. n., borne by a daughter of Offa, a Mercian king (757–786), who, like his predecessor Offa, was a great benefactor to the Church in Worcestershire, and elsewhere. It is not unlikely that the place was named in her honour, but Ælflæd was also the name of many other women. The intrusive *r* in Offerton may be accounted for by the similarity of *Ælflæd* to *Ælfred*, and the later forms favour that suggestion; but how an A. S. *Ælflædetūn* (the correct form) could become a D. *Alcrintune* it is difficult to imagine. The correct interpretation is certainly Ælflæd's town; *v.* Ton.

Offmoor Farm, Offmoor Wood, in Halesowen. 1288 *Offemore*; 1316 *Offemor*; 1326 *Uffemore*; 1415 *Offemore grange* (belonged to Halesowen Abbey), Lyt. Ch.; 1549 *Uffmore.* The terminal is 'moor' (*v.* More); the prefix doubtless represents the A. S. p. n. *Offa* (or Uffa)—Offa's moor (*v.* Offenham). This or the following Offmoor gave name to a Worcestershire family of Uffmore. Corruption of names still goes on. The Ord. Map, 1 in. 1831, records this place 'Uffmoor,' that of 1891 'Houghmoor.'

Offmoor Farm, 1 m. E. of Kidderminster. 1327 William *in the Moor*, S. R. (perhaps refers to this place); *v.* Offmoor, *ante.*

Oldbarrow, 2½ m. W. of Henley in Arden. 709 *Ulenbeorge*, C. S. 124; 714 *Ulbeorge, Ulenbeorge*, C. S. 130; D. *Oleberge*; 1332 *Ullebury*, S. R. Here we have A. S. grammatical forms giving us 'the hill of the Owl.' Nash says there is an ancient tumulus here; if so the terminal *beorge* probably refers to it, as it is the root of our modern 'barrow' (q. v.). The charter of 709 mentions *ulan wyllan*, the owl's spring. It is curious that Ullenhall, the adjoining parish, in Warwickshire, has preserved its right name. Elham, in Kent, was *Ulaham*, 'the owl village or home,' before the Conquest.

Oldbury, h., **Oldbury Farm, Oldbury Grange, Oldbury Wood,** 3 m. NW. of Worcester. 972 *Ealdanbyri*, C. S. 1282; then belonged to the Abbey of Pershore. The form is correct A. S. for 'at the old *burh*' (*v.* Bury). It is not unlikely that the place was so named by the Saxons because it had been a British settlement.

Oldbury, 6 m. E. of Birmingham. The probability is that it was A. S. *æt Ealdanbyrig*, M. E. *Aldebury, Oldebury* (*v.* Oldbury, *ante*). This manor was formerly in Salop, and consequently does not appear in Worcestershire records.

Oldenhall, h., in Clent. 12 c. *Holdenhill*, Lyt. Ch.; 13 c. *Aldenhulle, Oldnulle, Aldehull, Oldenhull, Oldenhale, Holden-*

hull, Holdenhale; 14 c. *Oldenhulle, Oldehulle*. Clearly 'Old Hill.' It is curious that the prefix has preserved its dat. form, *en*, for so many centuries.

Oldington, h., 2 m. S. of Kidderminster. D. *Aldintone*. At the time of Domesday this place belonged to the Conqueror as a berewick (farm) appurtenant to Kidderminster. The D. form represents an A. S. *Ealdantūne* (dat.)—Old town. The dat. *an* has generally become *ing*. But *Ealda* was an A. S. p. n., and *Ealdantūn* (gen.) would also be Ealda's town. I see no material for election.

Oldswinford, 1 m. SE. of Stourbridge. D. *Suineford*; 1275 *Steyneford*, S. R.; 1340 *Oldeswynesford, Old Swyneford*. A. S. *Swīnford*, 'the swine ford.' The locality, in primitive times, was only a clearing in the forest, and the pasturage of swine in the woods was important. Kingswinford lies 4 m. NW. 'King' and 'Old' are M. E. additions to distinguish one place from the other.

Ombersley, 6 m. N. of Worcester. 706 *Ambreslege*, C. S. 116; 714 *Ambresleie*, C. S. 130; D. *Ambreslege*. In the charter of 706 *Ombreswelle* is referred to, and in three A. S. charters relating to adjoining manors *Ombersetena gemære* (the boundary of the 'Omber' folk) is mentioned, so that *Ambre* and *Omber* may be treated as variants. The terminal is plain 'lea' (*v.* Ley); but neither as an A. S. p. n. nor word can I make any sense of the prefix. D. records *Ambreforde* (Yorkshire), *Ambrelie* (Amberley, Sussex), *Ambresberie* (Amesbury, Wilts.), *Ambresdone* (Ambrosden, Oxon.), *Ambretone* (Bucks.), *Ambritone* (Bucks.), *Amburlege* (Amberley, Herefordshire), and no *Ombre-*. These names appear to have the same root as Ombersley, and I think the prefixes must represent a p. n. Though 'Ambrose' was not an A. S. name there was a famous saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, in the fourth century. Ombersley and the other places mentioned may have been named after him, though all their churches are dedicated to other saints. ('Certainly a proper name

beginning with *Amb-*; perhaps *Æmbriht*, an occasional form of *Eanbeorht*.' Skeat.)

Oney Coppice, in Lindridge. This is probably W. *onen*, ash-tree—the ash coppice. Cp. Onny, a river in Salop, another in Herefordshire, Onibury in Salop, Onneley and High Onn in Staffs., and Onneley in Salop. All these places are near the ancient borders of Wales.

Orleton, 9 m. E. of Tenbury, on the Teme. D. *Alretune*; 1275 *Olretone*, S. R.—'Alder town.' A. S. *alor*, an alder (tree), in M. E. becomes (among other forms) *olre*. *V.* Ton.

Orls. The Orls (wood), near Mathon; **Clifton Orls** (wood), and **Birch Orls** (wood), in Severn Stoke. *Orls* is a M. E. pl. form of A. S. *alor*, the alder-tree. 'Birch' here probably means a clearing (*v.* Breach), and has no reference to the birch-tree.

Osmonds Farm, in Ombersley (1 m. E. of). Philip *Osmund* was living in Ombersley in 1275, S. R., and Richard *Osmond* in 1327, S. R. The farm probably derives its name from that family.

Oswaldeslow Hundred, was formed in 964 (charter of K. Eadgar, C. S. 1135) by consolidating three ancient hundreds—Wulfereslaw, Winburge tree, and Cuthbergelau. The object of the grant was to unite in one hundred the great possessions of the bishopric of Worcester and the monasteries connected with it. Hence the detached manors of Alderminster, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, Tidmington, Blockley, Evenlode, Daylesford, and Cutsdean, which are entirely surrounded by other counties. The charter conferred great privileges on the bishops, making them practically governors of the hundred; it was made in the time, and on the intercession, of Bishop Oswald, and terms the new hundred *Oswaldeslau*. Hundreds were formerly of great importance in local government and criminal administration, and existed long before counties. There was a mound called, in 977, *Oswaldes hlaw*, in Wolverton (C. S. 612).

It is now 'The Low' (q. v.), and was probably a prehistoric tumulus where the courts for one of the incorporated hundreds had been held, the charter calling it *Oswaldes hlaw* being signed by Oswald himself. *V.* Spetchley, Sundays Hill, and Round Hill.

Otherton, h., in Cotheridge, 3 m. W. of Worcester. This is a rare name, though it means simply 'the other town' (A. S. *other*) (*v.* Ton). There is an 'Otherton' in Staffordshire, which D. records as *Orretone*; a medial *th* always perplexed a Norman scribe, and, as he could not pronounce it, he substituted *r*, or, more frequently, *d*.

Overbury, 5½ m. NE. of Tewkesbury. 875 *Uferebreodune, vel Uferebiri, Vfera birig*, C. S. 541; D. *Oureberie*; 1275 *Overebury*, S. R. The prefix is A. S. *uferra*, upper; the terminals are dat. forms of *burh* (*v.* Bury)—'the upper burgh.' It lies on the S. side of Bredon Hill.

Oxenton Hill, 4 m. E. of Tewkesbury. 977 *Oxna dunes cnol*, C. D. 617—'the knoll of the down of Oxen.' *Dun* and *cnol* have practically the same meaning. The charter mentions 'bull ditch' (*bula dice*).

Pale (The), in Leigh. 'Near to Cowley Park, on the road to Leigh Sinton, there is a picturesque gabled house, bearing the date MDCXXXI. This house is called "The Pale." It was built by one who had acquired a large fortune as a baker. He was not ashamed of the trade by the profits of which he had become "a prosperous gentleman," and therefore resolved to call his residence by a name having reference to his former occupation. The "Pale" is the name given to the long wooden shovel on which the bread is placed in order to be pushed into the oven' (*Gentleman's Mag.*, 1857, 180). *Pale* is a Worcestershire form of the word, usually 'Peel.'

Park Attwood, an ancient estate in Kidderminster, belonging to and occupied for several centuries by the

Worcestershire family of Attwood. It was situate in the Forest of Kinver. The family are described in mediaeval charters as 'de Bosco' and 'atte Wode.'

Park Farm, in Kempsey (1½ m. SE. of), so called because the Bishop of Worcester had a palace and park here, which Bishop Simon gave to a Beauchamp in 1121.

Parks Farm, Kings Parks, Park Hall, 1–3 m. W. of Feckenham, mark the locality of the park which the Crown had in Feckenham Forest on its enclosure (Hab. i. 221).

Paxford, h., in and 2 m. E. of Blockley. 1275 *Paxford*, S. R. There was no A. S. word or p. n. commencing *Pax-* or *Pack-*. The prefix probably represents an unrecorded A. S. p. n. *Pæcc*, gen. *Pæcces*—Pæcc's ford. *V.* Ford.

Paxton, h., ½ m. N. of Kidderminster. *V.* Paxford, *ante*, and Ton.

Payford, h., **Payford Bridge,** in Redmarley d'Abitot. 1413 *Payford*. After the Conquest *Pagan* (*g* = *y*) became a p. n. (whence our family name Paine, Payne). It meant originally a peasant, countryman, not a heathen. The compound should produce 'Painford,' and 'Payford.'

Peachley, h., **Peachley Court, Little Peachley, Peachley Grange,** in Hallow. 1275 *Pechesleye*, S. R.; 1340 *Pechesleye*. The prefix probably represents the M. E. word *peche*, now peach (from O. F. *peche*), and our family name Peach—Peche's ley (*v.* Ley).

Peasbrook, f., in Broadway. 972 *Pisbroc*, C. D. 570. The modern name is a correct translation of the A. S. one. The homestead stands on a small stream, forming the boundary between Broadway and Childs Wickham, as it did in 972. A. S. *pise*, a pea; pl. *pisan*.

Pedmore, 1½ m. S. of Stourbridge. D. *Pevemore*; 12 c. *Pebbemore*; 1262 *Pebbemore*; 1275 *Pebemore*, S. R.; 1340 *Pebmore*. The Ardens of Park Hall, Castle Bromwich, were ancient lords of this manor until 1643. Curiously enough

they owned also the 'Peddimore' Hall estate (a double-moated homestead) in Sutton Coldfield, otherwise there does not appear to have been any connexion between the two places. The prefix seems to be derived from the A. S. p. n. *Peobba*. The D. form probably represents a parallel form of this name, viz. *Peof*, gen. *Peofes* (recorded in the Northumbrian forms *Peuf*, *Peufa*). By germination of the final consonant, a common Indogermanic way of forming diminutive names, we obtain *Peobba* (*bb* is the regular doubling of *f*, originally *ƀ*). Thus we have Peobba's moor (*v.* More). There was a *Pebemore* in Eldersfield in 1275, S. R., not now marked on the O. M.; cp. Pebworth, Warwicks.

Pendock, 7 m. W. of Tewkesbury. 877 *Penedoc*, *Peonedoc*, C. S. 542; 875 *Peonedoc*, C. S. 541; 964 *Peonedoc*, C. S. 1134; 967 *Penedoc*, C. S. 1208; D. *Penedoc*, *Peonedoc*; 1275 *Penedoch*, S. R. Though the forms are so early I cannot construe them. The prefix does not appear to represent a p. n. Pendock lies 7 m. W. of Severn, and it may be of Welsh origin (*pen* is quite Welsh); but I can make nothing of Pendock in that language.

Penhull, h., in Lindridge (3 m. E. of). 13 and 14 c. *Penhull*. Probably M. E. *penn*, a fold for cattle, sheep, &c., and *hull*, hill—'the hill of the fold'; but the forms are too late to be trusted.

Penncricket Lane, Oldbury, near Birmingham, forms a boundary between Oldbury and Halesowen; it was also an ancient county boundary, Oldbury having formerly been a detached part of Shropshire. This is a curious instance of a locality, of no importance, maintaining its right name for nigh two thousand years. The terminal *-et* may be rejected; it is a mere popular attempt to find some meaning in that which seems to have none, and is common in pl. names. *Crick*, having no meaning to the ordinary mind, became *cricket*. We have therefore only to deal with *Pencrick*, which in Celtic languages means 'the head (or

end) of the boundary.' The subject is fully discussed in my Staffordshire Place Names, *s.* Penkridge, anciently *Pencric*.

Penorchard Farm, in Clent. A family of 'Penn' formerly lived here, and probably conferred their name upon the place. Humphrey Penn died here in 1616 (Amphlett's Hist. of Clent, 120).

Pensax, 6 m. W. of Stourport. 13 and 14 c. *Pensax*, *Pensex*. I can make nothing satisfactory of this in A. S. or W. The prefix points to W., and Pensax is west of Severn. *Sax* is an old form of W. *sais*, Saxon.

Pensham, h., 1 m. SW. of Pershore. 972 *Pedneshamme*, C. S. 1281; D. *Pendesham*; 1275 *Pednesham*. The prefix is the masc. p. n. *Peden*, gen. *Pednes*, formed regularly from the base recorded in *Peda*, by means of the diminutive or pet suffix *-en*. Pensham is situate on a curve of the Avon, and *hamme* means 'riverside meadow-land'; *v.* Ham, *b*.

Peopleton, 4 m. NW. of Pershore. 972 *Piplingtune*, C. S. 1281; D. *Piplintune*; 1275 *Pyplinton*, S. R. From the p. n. *Pippel*, a regular formation on the base represented by *Pippa*, *Pippen*, by means of the diminutive or pet suffix *-el*. Hence A. S. *Pipling-tūn* means the 'town of the sons of *Pip(p)el*.'

Pepper Wood, Bellbroughton (2 m. SE. of). 1242 *Purperode*, I. P. M.; 1294, Robert *Pippard* was one of the verderers of Feckenham Forest; 15 c. *Pepperroel alias Hartilbury*; appears to represent the Forest of Pyperode, a portion of Feckenham Forest (Nash, i. lxviii. 17). The difficulty here is to find the right form; *Pyperode* points to A. S. *pīpe*, a pipe, conveyance for water, and *rōd*, a rood, cross; but that is not satisfactory. It may have been an A. S. *Pippan-rod*, Pippa's cross (A. S. p. n. Pippa).

Pepwell Farm, in Hartlebury. 1275 Richard de *Pepewalle*, Galfrid de *Pepewalle*, S. R. The right terminal is probably 'well.' There is frequent confusion between *well*

and *wall* in consequence of the Mercian form for *well* being *wælle*. An A. S. *Pippan-wælle*, Pippa's well (spring), would very likely produce a M. E. *Pepewalle*.

Perdiswell, h., 2 m. N. of Worcester. 1327 *Perdeswell*, *Pardeswelle*, S. R. *Perd-* probably represents a p. n., but I cannot correlate it; the forms are late. *Welle* in A. S. and M. E. may safely be translated 'spring'; 'wells,' though made by the Romans, were rarely, if ever, constructed by the A. S.

Perry. Small streams are frequently so named—Perry Brook in Kyre Magna, Perry Brook in Bockleton, Perry River in N. Salop. Early forms of small river-names are rare. I am not sure we are right in translating Perry 'Pear-tree' (A. S. *pirige*, *pirie*), though streams are often named from trees on their route; but I can suggest no other construction. A large number of hamlets and some manors bear the name of Perry.

Perry, h., in Hartlebury. 1325 *Pyrie*. A. S. *pirige* (*g* = *y*), pear-tree (*v.* Perry, *ante*, and Perry Wood, *post*).

Perry Wood, 1 m. E. of Worcester. 969 *æt thære Pirian*, C. S. 1240; D. *Pirian*. A. S. *pirige*, *pirie*, dat. *pirian*—'at the Pear-tree.'

Pershore. 972 *Perscoran* (dat.), C. S. 1282; 1046 *Perscoran*, C. D. 804; 1066 *Perscore*, C. D. 829; A. S. C. *Persōre*; D. *Persore*; 1275 *Persore*; all pronounced Parshore. The terminal is A. S. *ōra* (dat. *ōran*), a border, edge, bank. In A. S. *persoc* is 'a peach'; not a native word, but borrowed from L. *Persicus*, a peach-tree, the tree being supposed to have come from Persia. 'The Peach-tree bank' is appropriate, as Pershore is situate on the Avon, and has long been celebrated for the production of fruit. It also seems impossible to give any other construction to the forms. Mr. W. H. Stevenson wrote: 'If the forms can be trusted (they are all late MSS.) it must be a compound of *ora* and a common noun, since there is no inflexion; it

cannot be the gen. of any p. n.' The suggestion that *Persc* represents 'the peach-tree' is Professor Skeat's, and I feel sure he has solved the difficulty.

Phepson, *v.* Fepston.

Piddle, river, rising near Feckenham, and falling into Avon near Pershore. 963 *Pidele*, C. D. 1110; 972 *Pidele* (dat. *Pidelan*), C. D. 1282. The word 'piddle' is not admitted into any A. S. dictionary, though it is found in A. S. charters. Piddletown, Dorsets., is *Pyedele* in C. D. 522, 656, and in D. *Pydele*. I believe it to be a good O. E. word for a small stream. It is in common use in that sense in the Midlands, especially among children. Cp. Piddle, river in mid-Dorset; some places on that stream take the name of *Puddle*; cp. also the word 'puddle,' the history of which is as obscure as 'piddle.'—PS. I find Kemble, 3 C. D. xxxv, renders *Pidele*, piddle, a thin stream.

Piddle (North), 5 m. N. of Pershore. D. *Pidelet*, *Pidele*; 1275 *Pydele North*, S. R.; is situate on the river Piddle (q. v.), and doubtless takes its name from it.

Piddle (Wyre), h., in Fladbury, 2 m. NE. of Pershore, is situate near the confluence of the rivers Piddle and Avon, 4 m. S. of North Piddle, and quite disconnected from it. D. *Pidele*; 1290 *Wyre Pidele*; 1327 *Pydele*, S. R.; 1420 *Wyre Piddle*. I have no doubt it takes the name of Piddle from the river of that name (q. v.). In W. *wyre* means a spread, an expanse (of a river or anything); cp. Wyre Forest, Wyre River, in Lancashire; but W. words E. of Severn are very rare, and must have been located centuries before the Conquest; here there is no 'evidence' of *wyre* before 1290, though it may have been in local use before it was attached to the name.

Pinvin, 2 m. N. of Pershore. 1275 *Pendefen*, S. R. It is curious that no forms present themselves before 1275; but I think the meaning is clear. *Pendanfenn*—'Penda's fen'—is probably the original form, the *an* being now

represented by *e*. Pendeford, 3½ m. N. of Wolverhampton, is a similar case. Penda ('the terrible Penda,' as historians term him) was King of Mercia, 626–655, and is said to have taken Worcester, and raided the country, about 628. As the name is not recorded to have been borne by any other A. S. (perhaps because he was a heathen), it is not unlikely it may refer to him and to some camp of his in the 'fen.' *Pendanæc*—Penda's oak—is mentioned in a Worcestershire charter of 849, C. S. 455; the locality near Cofton Hacket; a *Pendiford* is also mentioned in the S. R. of 1275 under Bromsgrove and Kingsnorton, but appears now to be obsolete. Penda is said to have conquered Hwiccia (consisting of the present counties of Worcester, Gloucester, and part of Warwick) and annexed it to Mercia.

Pipers Hill, 2 m. S. of Stoke Prior. a. 770 *in pipan* (on bounds of Stoke), *of pipan*, C. S. 204. It is clear the original form is *Pipe*, of which *pipan* is the dat. It is difficult to say what kind of 'pipe' is referred to. The word is often used in old writings in the sense of a 'pipe,' perhaps of wood, for the conveyance of water. Pipe, near Lichfield, takes its name from a conduit pipe, which from remote times conveyed water thence to Lichfield.

Pirton, 5 m. SE. of Worcester. 766 *Pirigton*, *Pyrigtun*, C. S. 221; 972 *Pyritune*, C. S. 1282; 989 *Pirigtune*, C. S. 661; D. *Peritune*; 1275 *Periton*, S. R.—'the town of the Pear-tree.' A. S. *Pirige* (*g* = *y*), *Pirie*, becomes *Perry-*, *Pir-*, and *Per-*. Pirton is situate on a stream called *Pyrig* in the charter of 972, so that it may derive its name from the river; *v.* Perry.

Pitlick Farm, in Mathon. William de *Pudlewyk* is assessed to the 1275 S. R., and William de *Putlewyke* to the 1327 S. R., both *s.* Mathon. *Puddle* is not an A. S. word, but appears in M. E.; it seems to be a diminutive of A. S. *pudd*, a ditch, a furrow (Skeat). It means a small pool of muddy water—Puddle village (*v.* Wich).

Pitmaston, h., 1 m. W. of Worcester. 1275 *Pitenan-weston*, S. R. The terminal seems to be 'west town'; but I cannot translate *Pitenan*. The form is probably corrupt. There is an obs. *Penitanham* recorded in C. S. 85, a. 693, by which Oshere, king of the Hwiccas, grants land to the Abbess Cutsuida for the erection of a monastery; but the connexion between Pitmaston and Penitanham seems unlikely.

Pitmaston, h., in Kingsnorton, *v.* Pitmaston, *ante*.

Pixham Farm, Pixham Ferry, on Severn, in Kempsey, 5 m. S. of Worcester. 1275 *Pykerham, Pykresham*, S. R.; 1327 *Pykeresham*, S. R.: 1340 *Pykersham*. *Pikare, Pykare, Pykre* is a M. E. word, as 'Promptorium Parvulorum' tells us, for a 'lytylle theef,' and as the place is a ferry, it is not unlikely to be the meaning here, and, being on Severn, I should translate *ham* as 'meadow' (*v.* Ham); 'the thief's meadow' is not unlikely. ('*Pikare*=a picker, i. e. a stealer.' Skeat.)

Plerimore, h., in Chaddesley Corbet. 1275 *Pleybmere*, S. R.; 1327 *Plebemer*, S. R. The terminal is A. S. *mere*, M. E. *mere*, a lake, pool. (There is a large pool here.) *Pleyb-, Plebe-*, I cannot translate; it is probably corrupt.

Poden, h., in Church Honeybourne. 860 *Poddanho, Poddenho*, C. D. 289; 1275 *Poddeho*, S. R.; 1332 *Podenho, Podonho*, S. R.; 1327 *Podenho*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Podda* and *hō* (dat. of *hoh*), 'a projecting ridge of land,' which for brevity I term 'hill'—Podda's hill (*v.* Ho).

Pook, *v.* Puck.

Portway, a name applied to many ancient roads, which antiquaries, consequently but erroneously, assume to be of Roman origin. *Port* in A. S. means a port, haven; but it also means a town, and, when used inland, may always be so construed. 'I will that no man buy out of *port*, but have the *port*-reeves witness,' &c. (Laws of Edward the

Elder). 'And we have ordained that no man buy any property out of *port*, over xx pence,' &c. 'That every marketing be within *port*,' &c. (Æthelstan's Laws). Here *port* is used in the sense of town or market. *Portstræt*, *Portweg* (*g* = *y*), are words frequently occurring in A. S. charters, and mean simply the town or market way. A road so named is presumably of great antiquity, and may be pre-Roman. The name is local, and often applied to *parts* of Roman and other ways leading to market towns, beyond which the name ceases. I know many Portways which have no pretension to Roman origin. We had thoroughfare roads before the Romans set foot in Britain. The following Portways are mentioned in A. S. charters:—*Port stræt* in Himbleton (probably Trench Lane), C. S. 552; *Port stræt* in Salwarp (probably Droitwich to Worcester), C. S. 360, 361, and C. D. 627; *Portweig* (*g* = *y*) in Hallow (Worcester to Tenbury), C. S. 356; *Port stræt* in Oddingley (probably Trench Lane), C. S. 1108; *Port stræt* in Battenhall (Worcester to Tewkesbury), C. S. 1240; *Port stræt* in Waresley, C. D. 627 (between Kidderminster and Worcester, part of the Roman Way from Chester); *Portweig*, *Portwege*, in Wolverton (the old road between Worcester and London, via Spetchley), C. D. 612; *Portstræt* in Teddington (Tewkesbury to Stow-on-the-Wold), C. D. 617; *Port stræt* in Lawern, C. S. 1108. *V.* Ridgeway, Ferdstræte, Saltway.

Pouk, Powk, *v.* Puck.

Powick, 2 m. S. of Worcester. 1282 *Poincgwic*, C. S. 972; D. *Poiwic*; 1275 *Poyswyke*; 13 c. *Poywike*, *Poywick*. The terminal is *wic*, a village (*v.* Wich). *Poincg-* must be two stems, *Po-* and *ing*, *Po-* being a short form of *Po(ha)*, and *ing* (q. v.) patronymic, yielding 'the village of the descendants of Po(ha).'

Prescott, h., 1 m. SE. of Stourbridge. A common name. A. S. *prcostes-*, M. E. *prestes*-cot—Priest's cot.

Prickley Farm, Prickley Green Farm, in Martley. 1275 *Prieleye, Prielea,* S. R.; 1685 *Prichly,* Nash, ii. App. 149; from a tombstone in Worcester Cathedral, 'John Harris, descended from the ancient family of the Harris's of Prichly in the county of Worcester, late keeper of the castle of Worcester' (d. 1685). *Prie* is a dialectal word for the common privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*); (*v.* E. P. Names, E. D. S.) —'the lea of the Privet'; *v.* Ley.

Puck, Pook, Pouk, Powk (variant forms), is the prefix to many pl. names in this county and throughout the Midlands, e. g. **Puck Hill,** 1½ m. N. of Himbleton, **Puck Meadow** in Hallow, **Pook Lane** in Stanford-on-Teme, **Puck Hill** in Hanbury, **Puck Hill** in Acton Beauchamp, **Puck Lane** in Stoke Prior, **Puck Meadow** in Oldberrow, and several **Puck Crofts.** It is A. S. *pūca,* M. E. *pouke,* a fairy, elf, sprite. The word is widely diffused; in W. it is *pwca,* in I. *puca, phooca* (both borrowed from English), and is familiar to all of us in Shakespeare's 'Puck.' Spenser writes:—

> 'Ne let the Pouke, nor other evill sprights, . . .
> Fray us with things that be not.'

The belief in fairies and good and evil spirits was almost universal in the Middle Ages, and Puck seems to have been the chief of the domestic tribe of fairies, or brownies as they are called in Scotland; *Pucanwyl,* Puck's spring, is mentioned in C. D. 408, a. 946 (*v.* Hob). Puck must have been regarded with a friendly eye; in the S. R. of 1275 five families are assessed under the name of 'Pouke,' and two in 1327. The family name now appears as Pooke.

Pudford Hill, Pudford Farm, Pudford Coppice, in Martley. 1275 *Podeford,* S. R. Probably A. S. p. n. *Pudda*—Pudda's ford (*v.* Ford). The original (dat.) form would be *Puddan-ford.*

Pull Court, ancient estate in Bushley, on Severn side. D. *Lapule*; 1212 *La pulle*; 1275 *La Pulle,* S. R. This is

a mixture, A. S. *pōl*, a pool, with the French *La* tacked to it—the Pool; cp. Lappal, and Lifford.

Pulley Farm, in Salwarp (1½ m. SE. of). 10 c. *Pullelea* ('between the Oak Wood and Pullelea,' A. S. charter). A. S. *pōl, pul, pulle*, a pool, and *lea*, the pool lea, *v.* Ley. Farm names frequently carry us back to A. S. times, and field names would yield many a story if traced to their original forms, which are rarely accessible.

Purshall, h., 3 m. W. of Bromsgrove. 13 and 14 c. *Pershull* frequently, later *Purshull*. The terminal is M. E. *hull*, hill (q. v.). *Pers-* represents the M. E. p. n. *Piers*, introduced here by the Normans (French *Pierre*). 'Piers Plowman,' the subject of the M. E. poet of the Malvern Hills, or, as he writes it, 'Pers the Ploughmon,' is to us 'Peter the Ploughman.'

Pyehill Farm, in Hartlebury. 1275 Thomas *Pye* was living in Hartlebury, and was assessed to the subsidy; he probably lived on or near the hill.

Queenhill, chapelry in Ripple, 5 m. NW. of Tewkesbury. D. *Cu'hille, Chonhelme*; 11 c. *Cumhille, Cynhylle*, Hem. 303; 1275 *Quenhull*, S. R. The earlier forms are difficult to deal with. The *Quenhull* of 1275 is probably a case of 'interpretative corruption,' as it is not consistent with the preceding forms. The terminal may be 'hill,' but the prefix *Cu'-, Chon-, Cum-, Cyn-*, is too hard for me. Earlier forms will have to be discovered before 'Queenhill' can be interpreted. One thing is certain, that it is not 'Queen' hill. ('Perhaps *Cyn-hyll*, short for Cynehyll = Royal hill.' Skeat.)

Quinton, h., in Bockleton (1 m. W. of). 840 *Cwentune*, C. S. 453; 1275 *Quintone*, S. R. A. S. *Cwenantūn*, 'the woman's town' (*v.* Ton). Quinton, in Gloucestershire, was *Cwentune* in 840, C. S. 453. Many writers construe Quinton as a place where the game of 'quintain' was played, but that game, and the name for it, was introduced here long

after the Conquest, and has no connexion with *Cwentune*. In A. S. *cwēn* meant a queen, and *cwĕna*, a woman; so much for accents, though we rarely get them; in their absence it is safe to accept 'woman,' because *cwenan-tūn* became Quinton, regularly.

Quinton, h., in Halesowen. *V.* Quinton, *ante.*

Radford, h., in Rouse Lench (1 m. N. of). 1275 *Radeford.* The terminal is *ford* (q. v.). It is difficult, with only M. E. forms, to construe *rade*, as it is used in pl. names for 'road,' and also for 'red.' It might here be Road ford (A. S. *rād*, M. E. *rade*), the h. being on an ancient highway from Worcester to Alcester; but the form rather points to an original *æt readan forda*, which would yield a M. E. *Radeford*—Red-ford; *v.* Reddall, Redhall, Redstone.

Radford Farm, Little Radford Farm, in Alvechurch. 1275 *Radeford*, S. R. (*v.* Radford, *ante*).

Ran Dan Woods, in Bromsgrove. Nash, i. 151, says that in 1300 there were fifteen villages within the parish of Bromsgrove, inter alia, *Wrante*, which appears to be obs., unless it survives under this modern name. *Randan* is a M. E. word, but none of its meanings are acceptable as a pl. name.

Rashwood, h., 1½ m. NE. of Droitwich. 16 c. *Rashwoode, Raschehede.* Formerly belonged to Bordesley Abbey. I cannot translate *rash, rasch*, in connexion with either of the terminals, one of which is 'wood,' the other 'head.' M. E. *rasch* means 'rash'; *rusche, rische, rishe, resche* are variants for 'rush,' but there is no evidence to support their application.

Ravenhills Wood, Ravenhills Green, in Alfric. *V.* Ravenshill, *post.*

Ravenshill, in Tibberton (1 m. S. of). 816 *Ræfneshyl*, C. S. 356; 11 c. *Ræfnes hylle*, Hem. 267; 1332 *Revenes-hulle*, S. R. A. S. *Hræfn*, later *Ræfn*, means a raven, and was also a p. n. It is impossible to say whether a man or the bird is here referred to.

Rea, river, N. Worcestershire, tributary of Tame. *Rea* has no meaning; the *R* is intrusive, and the right word is A. S. *ēa*, a stream, running water; hence our numerous Etons and Eatons (water-town), all on rivers. The intrusive *R* arises thus: in charters we frequently find *on thære ea*—to the water; *thære* becomes *the*, but the *r* has survived by attachment to the *ea*, hence *Rea*, a form never found till long after the Conquest. For instances of a transferred *N v.* Napleton, Nash, Noake, Norchard, Noverton, the initial *N* having once belonged to the preceding word.

Rea, river, tributary of Teme, forms a boundary between Staffordshire and Salop near Tenbury. Its ancient name was the Nen (a. 957, C. S. 1007), preserved in place names on its course, e. g. Neen Savage, Neen Sollers. W. *nant*, a brook, pl. *neint*. There is a river Nene in Northants and Hunts. For the meaning of Rea *v.* Rea, *ante*.

Red Cross Farm, in Bromsgrove (1 m. NW. of). No forms or information. It adjoins Battlefield Farm, q. v.

Reddall Farm, in Warley-Wigorn. 1282 *Radewelle*, Lyt. Ch.; 1336 *Radewelle*; 1522 *Radwelle Grange*, belonging to the monastery at Halesowen. 'The red well' (spring), probably from the colour of the ground; *v.* Radford, Redditch, Redhall, Redstone.

Redditch. 843 *in readan sloe*—'to the red slough' (charter relating to Alvechurch), Hem. 7; 1300 *Rededichе* (Peram. of Feckenham Forest); 1642 *Red ditch, Reddiche*. Redditch lies *on* the boundary of Worcestershire and Warwickshire, and probably owes its name to a ditch cut in red soil to mark a boundary. It lay within the limits of Feckenham Forest.

Red Earl's Dyke, on Malvern Hills (Hollybush Hill), the boundary between Worcestershire and Herefordshire. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, commonly called the Red Knight, c. 1290, married Joan d'Acres, daughter of Edward I, who gave the Forest of Malvern to de Clare.

Disputes arose between de Clare and the Bishop of Hereford as to the bounds of their respective properties, and an agreement being come to, this ditch was cut to mark the boundary.

Redhall Farm, in Broom. 1373 *Le Redenwall,* Lyt. Ch.; belonged to the Black Ladies of Brewood, who owned the manor of Broom. This may be construed 'red well' (spring), or 'red wall' (M. E. *rede*, red); but the form is too late for certainty; notwithstanding the form, the probability is in favour of 'well'; *v.* Pepwell, Radford, Reddall.

Red Hill, in Kingsnorton (1½ m. S. of), is called *thonan in readan sloe, swa in mære broc, thonan with heort solwe, thonne with rah gelega*—'thence to the red slough, and so to the boundary brook, thence as far as the hart's wallowing-place, thence as far as the roe's lair,' C. S. 455, a. 849. It would seem at this time that red deer and roe roamed in Kingsnorton. 'The hart's wallowing-place' is frequently mentioned in early charters; it was miry ground in which the deer rolled to protect themselves from flies.

Red Hill, in Whittington, 1½ m. SE. of Worcester, is referred to in an A. S. charter relating to Whittington (Hem. 358), in *thær adun be tham readen wege* (thence down by the Redway).

Redmarley d'Abitot, 4 m. N. of Newent. 963 *Reodemæreleage*, C. S. 1109; 978 *Rydemæreleage*, C. D. 619; D. *Ridmerlege, Redmerleie, Ridmerlege*; 1275 *Rudmereley, Redmereligh, Rudmareligh.* The terminal is certainly *ley* (q. v.); *mære* is a boundary, but *mere*, a pool, is sometimes written *mære* in A. S. charters. (Toller-Bosworth, *s.* Mere.) The difficulty is with *Reode*; none of the earlier prefixes mean 'Red-.' ('*Reode* is from A. S. *hrēod*, a reed. I think *mære* here = *mere*, a mere—Reed-mere-lea. *Red* for *reed* before *m* is quite regular.' Skeat.) The manor takes the name of d'Abitot because Urse d'Abitot held it, or a part of it, under the Bishop of Worcester at the time of D.; and his heirs, the Beauchamps, succeeded him.

Rednall, h., 5 m. NE. of Bromsgrove. 730 *Wreodanhale*, C. S. 234; 934 *Wreadanhale*, C. S. 701; 1275 *Wredinhale*, S. R.; 1327 *Wrodenhale*, S. R. The charter of 730 is original, and therefore trustworthy. It gives us in plain A. S. 'the meadow land of Wreoda,' and though that name is not 'recorded' it may be safely accepted. *V.* Hale.

Redstone Rock and **Ferry,** on Severn, 1 m. S. of Stourport. c. 1200 *Radestone* (Layamon); 1275 *Radeston*, S. R. The modern form is quite correct. There was formerly a hermitage or cell here, and when Severn had no bridge at Bewdley or Stourport, Redstone was a considerable thoroughfare. Hab. ii. 17 describes it as it was in his time, c. 1642. Layamon, who wrote c. 1200, commences his poems: 'There was a priest in the land who was named Layamon; he was son of Leuca—may the Lord be gracious to him!—he dwelt at Ernley (Arley Kings) at a noble church with the good Knight upon Severn's bank—pleasant it there seemed to him—near *Radestone*, where he book read.' *V.* Arley Kings. An A. S. *æt readanstane* would yield a later *Radestone.*

Rhydd (The), ferry on Severn, near Upton. I doubt the antiquity of this name, as it does not appear in any records. It may be a modern name, though W. *rhyd* means a ford, ferry.

Ribbesford, 1 m. S. of Bewdley. 1023 *Ribbedford*, C. D. 738; 11 c. *Ribetforde*, Hem.; 1275 *Ribeford*, S. R. Ribbesford lies on Severn side. The terminal is plain 'ford' (q. v.); but *ribbed* or *ribet* are not A. S. words, and perhaps represent a p. n. commencing *Wr-*. *V.* Wribbenhall, which lies on the opposite bank of Severn, a mile N.

Ridding, is A. S. *hryding*, M. E. *ridding*, a clearing, a recent enclosure of wild land. It is a common name for fields and homesteads in Staffordshire, only occasional in Worcestershire. *V.* Breach.

Ridgeacre, in Warley-Wigorn; **Ridgeacre** in Halesowen. 1274 *Rugeaker*; 1302 *Rugacre*; 1309 *Ruggacre.* A. S.

hrycg, M. E. *rug, rugge*, ridge ; and *æcer*, M. E. *aker, acre*, a field—the ridged field, or the field on the ridge. The use of the word acre as a 'measure' of land is of M. E. origin. We still say 'broad acres.' *V.* Field.

Ridgeway (The), a common name for ancient roads. Antiquaries generally assume a 'Ridgeway' to be of Roman origin, but the name is no evidence of it, and most Ridgeways are certainly not Roman, some perhaps are pre-Roman. The name means a formed or ridged road, probably ditched on both sides, and, sometimes, because the road travelled along a ridge for some distance. The N. part of the road from Redditch to Evesham bears the name, and is a county boundary. In 1300 it appears as *Reggewey*. The road between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth in 994 is called the *Rycwei* (ridgeway), and in a charter relating to Wolverley the same road is called *tha myclan strete* (the great street). The road between Evesham and Pershore is called the *Rycgweye, Ricgweg, Rycgweye* in A. S. charters ; between Pershore and Worcester *Ricwege, Hricgweye*, C. D. 1368 ; between Stratford-on-Avon and Shipston-on-Stour *Hrycgweye*, C. D. 650. The original A. S. form of the name was *hrycgweg* (*g* = *y*) ; the initial *h* was often omitted, and ultimately discarded. *V.* Portway.

Ripple, 3 m. S. of Upton-on-Severn. 680 *Rippell*, C. S. 51 ; D. *Rippel* ; 1275 *Ryppel*, S. R. Though the forms go back to 680 and are uniform, I cannot translate the word. It does not appear to be A. S. or W. It is perhaps a river name. The village is situate on a long stream, which falls into Severn two miles south. Our modern word 'ripple' is not more than two centuries old. Cp. Ribble, an A. S. name for a river in Cheshire.

Rochford, 2 m. E. of Tenbury, on the Teme. D. *Rochesforde*. This has nothing to do with our modern word 'rock.' It is the A. S. p. n. *Hrōc*, later *Rōc* = rook —Hrōc's ford (*v.* Ford). D. uses *ch* for hard *c*. The

original pronunciation would be *Hrōc's ford*, and become Rochford through the introduction of the Norman *ch*. The gen. of *Hrōc* is *Hrōces*, regularly; *Hrōcan* occurs also, as the genitive of *Hrōca*. Rochford, in Essex, is on the river Roche, and probably takes name from it. Rochdale, in Lancashire, lies on another river Roch. Rochester, in Kent, was *Hrofescester*, Hrof's fortress. Places in Wales, Ireland, or Cornwall commencing *Roch-* should, prima facie, be construed *Rock-*, which, in Celtic languages, is *Roche*. All etymons have to be considered with reference to locality, history, and language and its changes.

Rock, 5 m. W. of Stourport. At the time of D. Rock seems to have been divided into two manors—Alton and Coneyswick (q. v.). Nash says it was anciently named *Aka*, but I have seen no evidence of it. If it be so, *Aka* is only a latinized form of *ace, ake*, oak, and has no reference to 'Rock,' which is a word barely recognized in A. S., and not commonly used in our language until the 13 c. It is only in the 16 c. that we find the name of the present parish as *Roke*, meaning 'rock,' no doubt in allusion to the eminence on which the church stands. It is rare to find a 'parish' with a name dating only from the 16th century.

Rodge Hill, Rodge Farm, in Martley. 1327 Rich^{d} *de la Rugge*, S. R. M. E. *rugge*, ridge (of land or hill).

Romsley, h., in Halesowen. 13 c. *Romesley, Ramesley*; 1478 *Romesley*. These forms are late for accurate judgement. In A. S. *ramm, romm* mean a ram, and this is probably 'the ram's lea' (*v.* Ley).

Round Hill, ½ m. NW. of Spetchley, a prehistoric fort, or tumulus, partly surrounded by a trench. 974 *Cuggan hylle*, Hem. 358, C. S. 1298. Round Hill is, of course, a modern name. The form gives us 'Cugga's hill,' *Cugga* being an A. S. p. n. He would probably be the owner or occupier of the land, but the earthwork would be long before his time.

Rouse-Lench, *v.* Lench (Rouse).

Rowney Green, h., 2 m. SE. of Alvechurch. 1275 *Rowenheye*, S. R. *Rowen* is one of the M. E. forms of A. S. *ruwan*, a form of the weak dat. of *ruh*, 'rough'—Rough hay; *v.* Hay. The locality lay in Feckenham Forest. *Rūh* was pronounced with a strong guttural *ch*, whence, with shortening, our mod. 'rough.'

Rubery Hill, in Kingsnorton. Though without forms I think the meaning is clear. *Ru-* represents A. S. *rūh*, rough, and *bery*, A. S. *beorh*, M. E. *berg* (*g* = *y*), a hill—Rough hill. 'Hill' would be added when the meaning of 'bery' had been forgotten.

Rude End, h., in Oldbury, near Birmingham. *Rude* here doubtless represents M. E. *rōde* (rood), a cross, crucifix; *end*, in pl. names, means a locality, place—the place of the cross; *v.* End.

Rushock, 5 m. W. of Bromsgrove. D. *Russococ*; 13 c. *Rushoke*. I think the D. scribe intended to write *Russoc*. The terminal in the later form is plain M. E. *oke*, oak. The prefix probably represents A. S. *risc*, M. E. *rusche*, a rush; perhaps a rushy place where oaks grew. There is a Rushock in Herefordshire, which appears in D. as *Ruiscop*.

Rushwick, *v.* Wick.

Russells Hall, ½ m. W. of Dudley. 1316 *Russelles-halle*. A Norman family of Russell resided here for some centuries.

Ryall, h., in Ripple. 1275 *Ruhale*, S. R.; 1332 *Ruhale*, S. R.; 14 c. *Ruyhale*. This appears to be descended from an A. S. *æt ryge-healе*, at the rye-field. Rye appears in M. E. as *rüy* (*ü* like French *u*). The mod. name supports this view.

Sale Green, h., in Huddington. 1327 *Cristina atte Sale*, S. R. A. S. *sæl*, a hall (dat. *sælе*) = Hall Green. 'Green,' it will be observed, has been added since 1327.

Salters Way, Salters Lane, Saltersford. These are names frequently found on Saltways. A. S. *sealtere*, a salter,

carrier of or dealer in salt. *Sealter ford* is mentioned in C. S. 1109, a. 963, relating to Redmarley. There is a Salters Lane 1½ m. SE. of Tardebigg, probably leading to Bordesley Abbey, Coventry, and the NE. *Saltwelle* is mentioned in a charter relating to Iccomb, C. S. 240, a. 784; but that is not indicative of a saltway, but rather of a brine-spring. *V.* Saltway.

Saltway, Salt Street. The history of Saltways ought to be written before material has been lost. 'Salt' has left its mark all over the county. From Droitwich radiated roads along which salt was carried, mainly by pack-horses, for great distances. Before 1767, when the first canal was made in Worcestershire, everything had to be conveyed by road or river. The carriers returned loaded with wood, then the only fuel used in the saltworks, and as progress was slow a large amount of traffic was continually upon the roads. That this had been going on from remote times is evidenced by numerous references to saltways, or 'streets,' in A. S. charters. And in studying old lines of communication we must always remember that it is never right to say that any particular way is 'the' road from A to B, for in long distances some travellers would go one way and some another. Ogilby (Book of Roads, 1675) says, under London to Holyhead:—'This, as being one of the six prime Postways and readiest passage for Ireland, is one of the most frequented roads of the kingdom, . . . yet we may advise that as the stage coaches to Chester miss Lichfield and pass through Newport and Whitchurch, . . . so on the other hand horsemen will sometimes ride by Northampton, and carts keep the Watling Street.' One route would be good in summer, and impassable in winter, or in times of flood. A broken bridge (they were mostly wooden) would divert traffic for years, and the liability to repair roads could only be enforced by costly proceedings. The much-abused monks were the only 'class' who did anything purely for the public good. I mention these things

in order to account for the variety and divergence of ancient thoroughfares. *Salt herpath* (*herepæth* 'army path,' but substantially 'a broad way'), *Salter dene* (Salter's valley), *Salter wellan* (Salter's springs), *Salt brōc* (brook), are mentioned in C. D. 645, a. 984, as in Wolverton. This is part of the great saltway from Droitwich to Lechlade, via Martin Hussingtree, Spetchley, Wolverton, Thornton, Pershore, Hinton-on-the-Green, Childs Wickham, and Broadway. The same road is also mentioned as *Saltstræt* in a charter relating to Bredicote and Tibberton, C. D. 683, a. 978. *Sealt stræt* is mentioned in a charter relating to Hallow, a. 816, C. S. 356. This may be the road from Droitwich to the NW., via Ombersley, crossing Severn at Holt Fleet; but perhaps the carriers preferred to cross at Worcester Bridge rather than ferry at Holt. *Salt stræt* is mentioned in a charter relating to *Dunnestreattun* (now Stretton-on-Foss, 4 m. NE. of Moreton-Henmarsh). I cannot identify this road. It is not the Fossway, as the charter mentions that road separately. It probably came through Chipping Campden. *Sealt stræt* appears in a charter relating to Evenlode a. 969, C. D. 1238. This is clearly *at* the Four Shire Stone, but whether it refers to the London and Worcester road, via Moreton-Henmarsh and Broadway, or via Chipping Campden and Willersey (which unite here), I cannot say. The latter route was the Post road until about 1770. *Salterswell* and *Salters Well Farm* lie 1½ m. SE. of the Four Shire Stone; and 3 m. further SE. on the London road is the village of *Salt*ford, pretty strong evidence of a saltway to Oxford and the SE. It must not, however, be inferred that the prefix *Salt-* or *Sal-* necessarily refers to salt. Saltley, near Birmingham, was anciently *Saluthley* (rightly *Saluchleage*), the willow lea, and Salford Bridge, in Erdington, was originally *Schrafford*, the ford by the caves. The old London road two miles N. of Evesham is called *Sealtstræte* in an A. S. charter without date, C. D. 289. This road would continue as a saltway up to Spetchley,

and thence via Martin Hussingtree. *Sealt strǽt* is mentioned as on the eastern bounds of Broadway, in C. S. 1282, a. 972. It is a portion of the Icknield Street, and crosses the London road, running almost due N. and S., about two furlongs E. of the Fish Inn, on Broadway Hill. It is now a deserted greenway, and a mile further S. is enclosed and almost lost. Since 972 this saltway has been diverted nearer to the Fish Inn, and passes by Broadway Tower, a mile E. of Snowshill, and due S. by Cutsdean, Temple Guiting, Hawling, a mile SW. of Northleach, Coln St. Aldwins, and so to Lechlade, whence the Thames was navigable. Before the enclosure of the Cotswolds I think there was a duplicate saltway to Northleach via Turkdean. A saltway from Droitwich passed by Feckenham, Coughton, and half a mile S. of Great Alne, to Stratford-on-Avon; it is called *tha Sealt strēt* in C. D. 724, a. 1016. This road between Coughton and Stratford was also the London road to Shrewsbury, via Stratford, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster, and Bridgnorth. It was diverted via Alcester about 1750, and then the old road fell into disuse, and between Great Alne and Coughton is now partially stopped. The same saltway two miles E. of Coughton diverged to the SE., and on striking the Icknield Street took that road through Alcester, Bidford, Church Honeybourne, and near Weston-sub-edge. Thence, at the foot of the Cotswolds and up their slopes, the Icknield Street became too difficult to follow, and an early diversion was made out of it half a mile E. of Saintbury, the two roads uniting on Broadway Hill. This diversion is still open, but impassable to vehicles, and is evidently of extreme antiquity. The Icknield Street, from the diversion to Broadway Hill, is still traceable, but in places is more like a ditch than a road, and in other parts is ploughed and enclosed, though its straight line is visible. Trench Lane (q. v.) is probably part of a duplicate saltway passing through Pinvin and uniting at Pershore. The 6 in. Ordnance Map marks a road

as 'Saltway' which runs due N. and S. out of the Pershore road below Cropthorne through Ashton-under-Hill. It is probably a road the carriers would take to the Abbeys of Winchcombe and Hales, Cirencester, and the South. The name *Sal*ford Priors (in Warwickshire), 6 m. NE. of Evesham, leads to the inference of a saltway, but I am unable to trace it. I believe Droitwich was the only place in the county which had brine-springs, and that the nearest ancient salt-works were at Weston-on-Trent and Shirleywich near Stafford (about 50 miles N.), so that it may be assumed that all the saltways in Worcestershire, Warwickshire, and Gloucestershire were connected with Droitwich. Salt was formerly a greater necessity of life than it is now. Our forefathers had no potatoes, turnips, mangolds, or artificial foods for their cattle. They slaughtered in October, and salted their meat for the winter; fish, game, poultry, and pork being their only fresh food. *V.* Icknield Street, Salters Way.

Saltwells, h., 4 m. S. of Dudley. There is a brine-spring here, in carboniferous strata, and evidence of great geological disturbance. The limestone and Ludlow shale protrude, and the thick coal crops out on the flanks of the hill caused by the protrusion. The disturbance is geologically known as 'the Netherton anticlinal.' Plot (Hist. of Staffordshire, 98) mentions the brine-spring as in Pensnet Chase. There are baths here, but the spring is too weak for the production of salt.

Salwarp, 5½ m. NW. of Worcester, lies on the river of that name, and is mentioned in numerous A. S. charters as *Sealewcorpe*, *Salwarp*, *Salowarpe*, *Salewarp*, and *Salewearpe*. The river passes by Droitwich, 'where,' Nash says, 'it receives the overflowings of the salt springs,' formerly very great. The manor probably takes its name from the river. If the prefix *Seale* or *Sal* could be said to represent A. S. *sealt*, Salwarpe might be read as 'the river which throws up salt' (A. S. *weorp*, *weorpan*, means to

throw up, cast off); but these river names are hopeless; their roots often lie, wholly or partially, in some extinct language.

Salwarp, river, rises near Bromsgrove, and runs, by Stoke Prior and Droitwich, into Severn, 3 m. N. of Worcester. *V.* Salwarp, *ante.*

Sandford, h., in Severn Stoke (½ m. N. of). 1275 *Sandford,* S. R. The road from Worcester to Gloucester here crosses a small stream which flows into Severn.

Sapey Pritchard or **Lower Sapey,** 5 m. NE. of Bromyard. 781 *æt Sapian,* C. S. 240; D. *Sapie;* 1275 *Sapye,* S. R.; 1346 *Sapey Pychard.* This is A. S. *sæpige* (*g*=*y*), a fir-tree, spruce fir, dat. *sæpigan.* The *Sapian* of 781 is a late spelling of *Sæpigan,* just as *pirig*(*e*)*an,* a pear-tree, is written *pirian.* The meaning therefore is 'at the spruce fir.' Pritchard is a mediaeval addition, a family of that name having held the manor in the 13 and 14 centuries.

Sarehole, h., **Sarehole Mill,** in Moseley, 4 m. SE. of Birmingham. D. *Survehel,* berewick of Bromsgrove. I think the form represents an A. S. *Syrfe-hyl* (nom.), 'a hill upon which a service-tree (A. S. *syrfe*) grew.' It is interesting to note how many of these little places have long histories.

Sar House, in Ombersley. *Sare* appears as a family name several times in the S. R. of 1275, and a family of that name was then living in Ombersley. There was then also a *Sardhamton* (now apparently obsolete) in the adjoining parish of Astley. There can be little doubt the house takes its name from the family. *V.* Yarhampton, *post.*

Saxons Lode, a ferry on Severn, 1½ m. SE. of Upton. 1275 *La Lode,* S. R.; 13 c. *Sastanelode;* 16 c. *Sextonslade, Sestanelade.* The prefix doubtless represents the name of some ferryman, perhaps **Seaxstān.* The terminal is A. S. *ge-lād,* M. E. *lade,* a passage or crossing. *Lode* is a common name on Severn for an ancient ferry.

Sedgberrow, 3 m. S. of Evesham. 771 *Segcesesbearwe*, C. S. 223; 964 *Secgesbearwe in monte Wiccisca* (i. e. the Cotswolds, q. v.), C. S. 1134; D. *Secgesbarue*; 1275 *Seggesberrow*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Secg*, gen. Secges = Secg's hill (or tumulus); *v.* Barrow.

Selly, Selly Oak, 4 m. S. of Birmingham. 12 c. *Selleg'*, *Selley*, Lyt. Ch.; 1275 *Selleye*, S. R.; 14 c. *Solleye*, *Selley*. Selly lies on the boundary of the parishes of Harborne and Northfield, and of the counties of Worcester and Stafford. I cannot interpret 'Selly' satisfactorily; 'oak' appears to be a late addition, and perhaps refers to a boundary or 'Gospel Oak.' There is a 'Sell Oak' in Cold Aston, near Sheffield, and an ancient family named Selioake lived in the adjoining parish of Norton for many generations; otherwise 'Selly' is unique as a pl. n.

Seven Wells, near Spring Hill, on the Cotswolds, the source of the river Windrush, tributary of the Thames. Cp. 'Seven Springs,' ½ m. W. of Northleach, the source of the Coln, another tributary of the Thames, mentioned in C. D. 90, an. 716, as *Seofenwyllas*. Also 'Seven Wells,' 3 m. S. of Cheltenham, the source of the Churn, another affluent of the Thames.

Severn, river. The early forms are too numerous to detail, and may be summarized. The Roman name was *Sabrina*. Early W. *Safren*, later W. *Hafren*, A. S. *Sæferne*. Early W. never had an initial *h*, but, by the ninth century, initial *s* had passed into *h* (Rhys). The Romans were in the habit of adopting native names, clothing them in Roman garb, and prima facie the root should be sought in some pre-Roman language, though Sabrina was a fem. p. n. In 'A Wandering Scholar in the Levant' (Murray, 1896) the author says, writing of the country around Pingan, on the Euphrates: 'On the rock above' (a Roman bridge) 'was a sunken panel recording in bold Latin lettering that the bridge was built in the time of the Emperor Decius across

this river Sabrina—an Armenian Severn.' The river is now named Kara Budak. Decius reigned 249–251. Unless *Sabrina* is a L. word, it is extraordinary that the Romans should have applied the name to a river in England, and a river in Armenia; it is possible that it may have been carried to the east by British troops. *Sabrina* may have been the name of some Roman lady, or unrecorded goddess. In studying river names one frequently gets lost in the mists of antiquity.

Severn Stoke, 8 m. S. of Worcester. 972 *Suth stoce*, C. S. 1282; D. *Stoche*; 1275 *Severnstok*, S. R. It will be observed that 'Severn' is a mediaeval addition to distinguish the place from other Stokes; it stands on the Severn. *V.* Stoke.

Shakenhurst, ancient estate in Bayton (1 m. W. of). 1327 *Shekenhurste*, S. R.; 16 c. *Schekenshurst*. This is Scæcca's wood, *Scæcca* being an A. S. p. n. The A. S. form would be *æt Scæccan-hyrst* (*sc* = *sh*).

Sharpway Gate, 1½ m. S. of Stoke Prior. 770 *Sceap weg*, *Scearp weg*, C. S. 204. The first form gives us 'sheep way,' the other 'sharp way,' the latter doubtless correct. The charter is a copy, corrupt in several other words. 'Sharp' appears to be used in the sense of 'pointed,' two roads meeting here at a sharp point with a cross-road between them. 'Gate' is a later addition.

Shatterford, h., 4 m. NW. of Kidderminster. 996 *Scileres-ford* (Wulfrun's Ch.). A. S. *scytere* (*sc*=*sh*), an archer, shooter—the archer's ford (*v.* Ford).

Shavers End, in Astley. Not an uncommon name; sometimes attached to isolated dwellings, very unlikely to have been occupied by a barber. It may have been applied to a person who was close or sharp in his dealings. It must have one or the other meaning. The root is A. S. *sceafan*, to shave, M. E. *schaver*, a barber. Example: Shavers End, Rushall, Staffs.

Sheen Hill, in South Littleton. Having no forms and accepting the modern one, the interpretation would be 'beautiful,' A. S. *scīne, scēne* (*sc*=*sh*). Cp. Sheen, N. Staffs.; Sheen, Surrey. It is against rule for an adjective to stand alone as a pl. name.

Shell, or **Shelve,** h., in Himbleton. 956 *Scylf,* C. S. 937; D. *Scelves*; 1275 *Schelve,* S. R. A. S. *scylf,* M. E. *schelfe,* a shelf, shelve, or shelving cliff. In pl. names it means a slope, and sometimes table-land sloping on all or most sides. Cp. Shelf, W. R. York; Shelf-hanger, in Norfolk; Shelve, Salop; and many Shelfields.

Shelsley Beauchamp, 7½ m. SW. of Stourport. D. *Celdeslai*; 12 c. *Sceldeslege*; 1275 *Sceldesley,* S. R. I think the prefix represents the A. S. p. n. *Scyld* (*sc* = *sh*). Scyld's lea (*v.* Ley). The manor belonged to the Beauchamps in the 15 c. *Scyld* = shield.

Shelsley Walsh, 9 m. SW. of Stourport. D. *Caldeslei*; 1275 *Sceldeley Walleys,* S. R.; 1346 *Sheldesleye Waleys,* 'quod Henricus le Waleys (the Welshman) quondam tenuit,' S. R. The Waleys or Walsh (=Welsh) family held the manor in the 14, 15, and 16 centuries. A. S p. n. *Scyld* (*sc*=*sh*). Scyld's lea.

Sheltwood, Sheltwood Farm, 1½ m. S. of Tardebigg, formerly a grange to Bordesley Abbey. 14 c. *Siltwode, Shiltewode Grange*; 16 c. *Scheltewodde.* The terminal of course is 'wood'; I cannot translate the prefix, the forms being late and corrupt.

Shenstone, h., in Hartlebury. 1275 *Scheneston,* S. R.; 1327 *Shenston.* The medial *s* shows that the terminal was A. S. *stān,* stone, not *ton.* The prefix is *scēne* (sheen), beautiful, shining. Most pl. names have their forms from the dat. case, which here would be *æt Scienanstane* (*sc*=*sh*), and yield a M. E. *Scheneston.* Shenstone, in Staffordshire, has the same root and meaning, 'shining or beautiful stone'; but neither place has any history or remains accounting for

the name. *V.* Sheen Hill, and cp. Sheen in N. Staffs., and Sheen in Surrey

Sheriffs Lench, *v.* Lench (Sheriffs).

Shipston-on-Stour. 770 *Scepeswasce,* C. S. 205; 957 *Scepwæsctun,* C. S. 1006; D. *Scepwestun.* This is plainly 'the town of the Sheepwash.' The 'wash' dropped out after the Conquest.

Shire Ditch, on Malvern Hills, marking the boundary between Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. A. S. *scīr,* M. E. *schire,* a district, division, (later) boundary. *V.* Red Earl's Dyke.

Shortwood, Shortwood Dingle, Little Shortwood, Great Shortwood, hamlets and farms, 2½ m. S. of Alvechurch. 1545 *Schorte Wodde* (belonged to Bordesley Abbey)—Shortwood.

Shortwood, a wood in Hagley. 1349 *Shortwod*—Shortwood. *V.* Shortwood, *ante.*

Shoulton, h., in Hallow. 17 c. *Shoulton.* ('*Scūla* was an A. S. p. n., and an original *Scūlan-tūn,* Scula's town (*v.* Ton), would produce a modern Shoulton.' Skeat.)

Showell Green, in Yardley. As I find no evidence of antiquity I assume this to be derived from the M. E. family name 'Showell.' The word itself is very old, and means 'a scarecrow against deer.' Places *anciently* named 'The Showells' are always found to be on the borders of old forests.

Shrawley, 5 m. W. of Stourport. 804 *Scræfleh,* C. S. 313; 12 c. *Escreælei*; 1275 *Schreweley,* S. R. A. S. *scræf* (*sc* = *sh*), a cave or hollow place in the earth, also a miserable dwelling, a den. The term would probably be applied to a collection of pit-dwellings once occupied by an aboriginal race. For the terminal *v.* Ley.

Shurnock, h., 1 m. E. of Feckenham. 1006 *Sciran āc, Sciren āc* (*sc* = *sh*), C. S. 957; 1275 *Shirnak,* S. R.; 13 c. *Shurnake.* A. S *scīran* is here the weak dat. sing. of *scīr,*

meaning, with reference to inanimate objects, 'bright, brilliant, white,' and *āc*, oak, certainly referring to some remarkable tree once growing here. There is, or was, a 'White-leaved Oak' on Malvern Hills.

Sidnals, f., 3 m. NE. of Bromsgrove. 16 c. *Sydenhale* (was a grange to Bordesley Abbey). A. S. *sīd* (dat. *sidan*), spacious, large, and *healle*—Great hall; *v.* Hale.

Sion Hill, mansion, in Wolverley. 1792 *Sion Hill.* Having met with no earlier record I assume it to be a modern scriptural name.

Smite (Lower and **Upper)** and **Smite Hill,** 3 m. S. of Droitwich. 978 *æt Smitan*, C. D. 618; 1275 *Smite*, S. R. Bosworth-Toller translates *Smīte* 'a foul miry place?', but the authority for it is slight. The word is used in the charter as a pl. name and also as a river name. *Of Smitan* is found in C. D. 1003 clearly as a river name (nom. *Smite*). The charter of 978 says (translated) 'from the slough to Smitan.' There is a river Smite in Leicestershire. It is certainly a river name, but the meaning for the present had better be treated as unknown.

Smithmoor Common, in Earls Croome. 1648 *Smeathmore.* This is probably A. S. and M. E. *smethe*, smooth, flat, level surface, and *more* (q. v.), moor. Examples: Smeeth, Kent; Smethcot, Salop; Smethwick, Staffs.; Smethwick, Cheshire; Smeaton, Yorks.; The Smeath, near Kings Lynn; and Markham Smeath, near Swaffham.

Sneachill, h., ½ m. SE. of Spetchley. 977 *Snœtes wylle*, C. D. 612. This is clearly 'Snæt's well' (spring), but *Snēt* as a p. n. is not recorded elsewhere.

Snead, Upper Snead, Lower Snead, Snead Common, in Rock. 1275 *Sned*; 1327 *Snede*, S. R. This is a common name in the Midlands. It is A. S. *snēd*, which in pl. names means a separated or intrusive portion of a manor or estate—something cut off from the bulk. In this case the locality intrudes into the adjoining manor of Pensax. The usual

form of the name is 'the Sneyd.' There was a *Snede* in Berrow in 1327, and there is 'Snead Green' in Elmley Lovett.

Sodington, h., **Sodington Hall** (moated), in Mamble (½ m. S. of). 825 *Suthtune,* C. S. 386; 957 *Suthinton,* C. S. 1007; 967 *Suthtune,* C. S. 1201; 1275 *Suthintone, Sodintone,* S. R.; 1327 *Sodinton,* S. R. The passage from *Sūthtune,* South town, to *Sūthantune,* Southern town, and then to Sodington, is curious. The last change appears to have commenced in 1275. All other *Sūthtuns* I have traced have become Sutton.

Solcum, f., in Wolverley. It is probable that the original name was *Solcomb,* which in A. S. means a miry or wet valley; *sol* is commonly found in A. S. charters in the sense of 'slough'; *v.* Combe.

Solhampton, h., in Astley. The *p* in 'hampton' is always excrescent, and is the effect of accent falling on the *m*; the original form is *hāmtūn,* home town (*v.* Ham, and Ton). Assuming *Sol* to be the correct prefix, the meaning of the name is 'a dwelling in a miry place'; but construction by modern forms alone is hazardous. *V.* Hampton.

Southall, h., in Doverdale. 1327 *Southale,* S. R.—South hall (*v.* Hale).

Southend Farm, in Upton-on-Severn. 1275 Robert de *Suthende,* and three other families, S. R.—South end (*v.* End).

Spadesbourne Brook, in Bromsgrove; **Spadesbourne Brook,** in Kingsnorton. The terminal is A. S. *burn,* M. E. *burne, borne,* a stream, brook. The prefix probably has its origin from a spade manufactory on the stream. Water and water-power were formerly essential elements in the edge-tool trade.

Sparkhill, Sparkbrook, in Yardley. Adam *Spark* and Reginald *Spark* were living in Yardley in 1275, and Adam *Spark* is again assessed, *s.* Yardley, in 1327.

Spellis Farm, in Claines, was granted by Thomas Cobham, Bishop of Worcester, c. 1361, to Richard *Spellye* for services rendered to the bishop by Spellye as bailiff of Whiston. His son Osbert *Spelli* succeeded him, and in 1332 was assessed to the subsidy.

Spetchley, 3 m. E. of Worcester. 816 *Spæcleahton*, C. S. 356; 967 *Speclea*, C. S. 1204; D. *Speclea*; 1275 *Spechesleye*, S. R. This is a difficult case. The terminal *-leahton*, in the form of 816, means a kitchen garden (A. S. *lēac-tūn*, *lēah-tūn*, literally 'leek' enclosure), and if that form is accepted it would be a guide to the meaning of *Spæc-*; but all the other forms are plain 'lea'; and the *es* in the form of 1275 points to *Spæc-* (*c* = *ch*) as a p. n.; but there is no such recorded name, or anything like it. A. S. *Spæc* is 'speech,' also 'a place of assembly, or speaking'; but 'Speech-garden' is very unlikely; 'Speech-lea' less so, but not acceptable without explanation. Now on the border of Spetchley, adjoining Wolverton, there is a tumulus called 'The Low' (in 977 *Oswaldes hlaw*), Oswald then being Bishop of Worcester, and 'Oswaldeslow' (q. v.), the name of a large newly-created hundred. It is not improbable that a court may have been held at this low from remote times for one of the ancient hundreds absorbed in Oswaldslow, and, if so, 'the lea of speaking, assembly, discussion,' &c., is not an unlikely construction. Spetchley is a unique name. If the suggested construction is not accepted, then *Spæc-* probably represents some unrecorded p. n., and we may construe it 'Spæc's garden' or 'Spæc's lea' (*v.* Ley).

Spilsbury Hill, in Mamble. 1275 *Spelebury*, S. R.; 1327 *Spellesbury*, S. R. The prefix is the A. S. p. n. **Spil*, *Spila*, recorded in D. as *Spille*—Spil's *burh* (*v.* Bury).

Stanford-on-Teme, 8 m. SW. of Stourport. D. *Stanford*. A. S. *stānford*, stone or rocky ford (*v.* Ford).

Stapenhill Farm, in Blockley. This probably represents an A. S. *Steapan-hylle*—Steapa's hill; cp. Stapenhill, 2 m. NW.

of Stourbridge (1342 *Stapenhull*), and Stapenhill, near Burton-on-Trent (D. *Stapenhille*). *Steapa* was an A. S. p. n., and *Steapan-hylle* would produce a modern Stapenhill.

Staplehall Farm, in Northfield; stands on the boundary of Northfield and Kingsnorton. A. S. *stapol*, a pole or pillar to mark the boundary of a manor or estate. The word is frequently met with in A. S. charters as boundary marks, which are sometimes mentioned as 'stone' stapols. A large number of place names commence *Staple-*. Having no forms we must accept the modern terminal 'hall,' but it is much more likely to have been 'hill,' M. E. *hull*. *V.* Hoarstone.

Staunton, 8 m. N. of Gloucester. 972 *Stān tune*, C. S. 1281; 1275 *Stantone*, S. R.—Stone-town (*v.* Ton). We have hundreds of pl. names commencing *Stan-*, but less than a dozen commencing *Staun-*; the *u* is excrescent, and due to the retention of mediaeval spelling, influenced by French.

Stechford, h., 5 m. SE. of Birmingham, in Yardley parish. 1242 *Stichesford*, I. P. M. I think the possessive *s* in the form points to a p. n. Stetchworth, in Cambridgeshire, has earlier forms; in the time of Edward the Confessor it was *Steuicheswrthe*, C. D. 907, and a little later *Stivicesworde*, C. D. 932. The *u* and *v* represent an original A. S. *f*, and in Professor Skeat's opinion the forms imply an A. S. *Styfices*, gen. of *Styfic*, or *Styfeces*, gen. of *Styfec*, the latter being a known p. n. I therefore construe Stechford as Styfec's ford (*v.* Ford). Stukeley, in Hunts, is Styfeca's lea.

Stildon Manor, in Pensax. 958 *Stilladune*, C. S. 1007; D. *Stilldune*; 1332 *Stilldon*, S. R. If the form of 958 represents *Stillandune*, as I think it does, the meaning is Stilla's hill (*v.* Don). *Stilla* is not recorded as an A. S. p. n., but has its cognate in O. H. G. A large number of A. S. names have perished with our records.

Stirt Farm, in Rock; **Stirt Farm,** in Abberley; **Sturt Coppice,** in Leigh. Probably A. S. *steort*, M. E. *start*, *stert*, *stirt*, a tail, promontory, tongue of land; plough-*start*= plough-tail, red-*start*=red-tail; cp. Start Point, in Devon; Start Island, Orkneys; Stert, h., 2 m. SE. of Devizes; Stert, h., 5 m. SE. of Somerton; Sterthill, in Somersetshire; Stert Island and Stert Point, in Bridgwater Bay; and Stirtloe, 4½ m. SW. of Huntingdon. I think *steort* is the right root, and alludes to the shape or situation of the land, or some part of it.

Stock Green, Stockwood, Stockwood Lodge, h., 1½ m. NW. of Inkberrow, now united with Bradley as an ecclesiastical parish under the name of 'Stock and Bradley.' A. S. *stoc*, a place fenced in; *stow* and *tūn* have practically the same meaning.

Stockton-on-Teme, 7 m. E. of Tenbury. 958 *Stoctūne*, C. S. 1007; D. *Stotune*; 1275 *Stotton*, S. R. The form of 958 is correct. The D. and later form are evidently written from pronunciation. It is A. S. *stoc*, a place fenced in. Pl. names commencing or ending 'stock' are innumerable.

Stoke. This common pl. name, suffix, and terminal is A. S. *stoc*, dat. *stoce*, and means a fenced-in place, equivalent to *tūn* (*v.* Ton). D. records thirty-one '*Stoche*' (*ch* = *k*), and thirty-two '*Stoches*,' most of which have since acquired distinctive additions. Examples: Stoke Prior, Tavistock, Basingstoke, Stoke-on-Trent, &c.

Stoke Prior, 2 m. S. of Bromsgrove. 770 *Stoke*, C. S. 204 (grant by Uhtred, regulus of the Hwiccii, to the monastery at Worcester). This charter exists only in a late copy. The A. S. usually used *c* not *k*. 804 *Stocce*, C. S. 313; 967 *Stoce*, C. S. 1202; D. *Stoche* (a D. *ch* represents *k*, or *c* hard); 1275 *Stok Prioris*, S. R. *V.* Stoke, *ante*. After the Conquest places having common names like Stoke, Aston, Norton, &c. found it necessary to add a distinctive name. Stoke belonged to the monks of Worcester for 800 years.

Stone, h., in Hartlebury. D. *Stanes*; 1275 *Stanes*, S. R.; 1327 *Stone*, S. R. A. S. *stānas* (pl.), stones; the *ā* developed into *o* in later times; hence *āc* has become 'oak.' What 'stones' are here referred to it would be difficult to say; perhaps some rude monument long ago destroyed.

Stonehall, f., ½ m. NE. of Earls Croome. 1275 *Stonhale*, S. R. The modern form correctly expresses its meaning. *Stoon, ston, stan* were M. E. forms for stone.

Stoulton, 5 m. SE. of Worcester. 840 *Stoltun*, C. S. 430; 1275 *Stoltone*, S. R.; 1332 *Stotton*, S. R. A. S. *Stōltūn*, stool town. In what sense the word 'stool' is here used we have no information; it may refer to the throne of some ancient king, the seat of a person in authority, or the see of a bishop. The name is unique.

Stour, river, rises near Halesowen, and falls into Severn at Stourport. 757–985 always *Sture*. There are six rivers of this name in England, of which this is the most northern, and all have the same early form. It is not an A. S. word; the *ū* in original charters is long, and would produce 'Stour.' The Stour, in Kent, is recorded as *Sturia* in the 7 c., and there is a river *Stör* in Germany (tributary of the Elbe), anciently *Sturia*. The name has been probably brought here by some continental race settling in the south of England in prehistoric times, and some day, perhaps, a German philologist will tell us its meaning. Professor Skeat thinks *Stūr* may be connected by gradation with E. *stor-m*, Germ. *Stur-m*, and E. *stir*. The sense may be 'bustling, stormy,' i.e. rapid, or else turbid.

Stour, river, rises 5½ m. SW. of Banbury, and falls into Avon 1½ m. SW. of Stratford. 704–988 always *Stūr* or *Stūre*. *V.* Stour, *ante*.

Stourbridge. Nash, ii. 207, says the earliest mention he finds of Stourbridge is in 1454; but in the S. R. of 1333 it is *Sturbrugg*, and in 1375 it is recorded as *Stourbrugge*, *brugge* being a M. E. form for 'bridge.' It is not mentioned

in D., but that is the case with many places of undoubted antiquity which were, for the purposes of the Survey, included in other manors, Stourbridge being then comprised in Oldswinford. I think the town existed long before the Conquest under the name of *Sture* (Stour). In 781, Heathored, Bishop of Worcester, surrenders to Offa, King of the Mercians, the monastery of Bath in exchange for lands *inter alia* '*æt Sture xxxviii* (*cassatos*). *Simili etiam vocabulo æt Sture in Usmere xiii manentium*'; C. S. 241. The first-mentioned *Sture* is Alderminster (anciently *Sture*), which lies, as Stourbridge does, on a river Stour. *Sture in Usmere* is Stourbridge, Usmere being the name of a province in Mercia before counties were formed. It is clear that a place, not a river, is referred to, as the grant by Offa includes thirteen farms or holdings (*manentium*), and there is no other place to which the name could be applied. A charter of 736 (C. S. 154) identifies Husmere as 'a province of old time' upon the river called *Sture*, and describes the country around Kinver. A charter c. 757 (C. S. 220) also conveys fourteen *cassatos* of land in the province of Usmere, which is called *æt Sture*. Broadwaters is the ancient *Usmere* (A. S. *mere*, a lake). The name survives in Ismere House (q. v.). Stourbridge, near Cambridge, where a great fair was formerly held, has a different root. It was anciently *Steresbreg*, later *Sterrebridge*; perhaps from the p.n. *Steor*, later *Ster* (Skeat's Place-Names of Cambridgeshire). *V.* Stour, *ante*.

Stourport. D. *Metune*; 1275 *Muttone*, S. R. Stourport is a modern name, assumed when the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal united Trent and Severn, about 1770. The Stour here runs into the Severn, and the right name is Mitton, M. E. *Mutton*, later *Mitton*, from A. S. (*ge*)*mythe*, 'meeting of rivers, confluence,' a word connected with our 'mouth.'

Stow (A. S. *stow*) is a common suffix and terminal, mean-

ing 'an inhabited place or locality'; originally it frequently stood alone, but in mediaeval times additions were often made for distinction. Examples: Chepstow, Stow-on-the-Wold, Stow-nine-Churches, Stowmarket, Walthamstow, &c.

Stratford, h., in Ripple, on the main road from Worcester to Tewkesbury. A. S. *strǽt-ford*, the ford on the street. The road here crosses a small stream. Most antiquaries assume 'Stratford' to be indicative of a Roman road, but it is only indicative of A. S. origin, though it may be Roman or British. The road between Worcester and Tewkesbury was doubtless used by the Romans as part of the way between Chester, Worcester, Gloucester, and Bath, but there is no evidence or appearance of 'construction' by them. They were too sensible to make roads where roads existed; and the Britons in Worcestershire were more advanced than historians suppose. Pretty nearly all our forts called 'Roman' are of prehistoric age. The Romans had no desire or need to make forts (misnamed camps), when every dominating eminence was crowned with one.

Strensham, 5 m. SW. of Pershore. 972 *Strengesho*, C. S. 1281; 1275 *Strengesham*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Streng*, and *hō*, hill (*v.* Ho)—Streng's hill. *Streng*, *strang* = strong, are common stems in A. S. p. names. *Strengesburieles*, Streng's burial place, is recorded in C. S. 458. The terminal changed from *hō* to *ham* by 1275. It is possible that the modern name is from the dat. plural of *hōh—hōm*, which would be shortened in composition to *-hom*.

Sturt, *v.* Stirt.

Suckley, 10 m. SW. of Worcester. D. *Suchlei*; 1275 *Sukkeleye*, S. R. 1346 *Sukeley*. A. S. p. n. Succa, Succa's lea (*v.* Ley). Examples: *Succanpyt*, Succa's pit (C. S. 1234); *Succanscylf*, Succa's shelf (table land) (C. D. 1232).

Sudbury, in Worcester. 963 *Suthan byrig* (dat. form), 'the south *burh*' (*v.* Bury).

Suddington, h., in Ombersley. The A. S. form would

be *æt Suthantune*, at the south town (*v.* Ton). Cp. Newington, from *æt thæm Niwan-tūne*, at the new town.

Sundays Hill, in Spetchley (½ m. N. of). Referred to in charter relating to Cudley (Hem. 358, N. ii. App. lv), in *swa æfter thære stræte be thære wællan on Sunder lond* (so along the street by the spring to Sunderland). The spring is now called 'Withy Wells.' Here *Sunder* has become Sunday. *Sunderlond* means land belonging to a manor or estate but detached from it, or land set apart for some special purpose. It is in the vicinity of Round Hill and Oswaldeslow (q. v.).

Sutton Common, Sutton Road, Sutton Farm, 1 m. SW. of Kidderminster. D. *Sudtone*, berewick of Kidderminster. A. S. nom. *Sūth-tūn*, dat. *æt Sūthan-tune*, South town. A medial *tht* has a tendency to become *tt*.

Sutton Park, Sutton Mill, Sutton House, Sutton Court, in Rochford. All Suttons mean 'South town.' The *n* is brought in by the dat. form, *æt Suthan-tune*, at the South town.

Sutton Sturmy, h., in Tenbury (1 m. SE. of). D. *Sudtone*. A *Suthtune* is mentioned in C. S. 386, a. 825, and in C. S. 1201, a. 967, but I cannot identify it with this place. It is clear, however, that a D. *Sudtone* means South town, and would become Sutton (*v.* Sutton, *ante*). The Sturmys were an ancient family possessed of property here.

Swancote, in Chaddesley Corbett (1 m. NW. of). 1275 *Swanecote*, S. R.; 13 c. *Swanecote*, I. P. M. The medial *e* in the forms points to M. E. *swain*, a swineherd, herdsman—the herdsmen's cot. It is our mod. 'swain,' now meaning a countryman.

Swanshurst, f., in Kingsnorton. 1275 *Swanhurste*, S. R.; 1332 *Suanneshurste*, S. R. *Swan* was not a p. n. before the Conquest, but by the 13 c. it had become one. The double *n* in the last form points to the p. n., and we may read this 'Swann's wood'; M. E. *hurst*, a wood.

Swineshead, h., 1 m. W. of Spetchley. 989 *Swines heafod*, C. D. 670; 13 c. *Swyneshevед*. This is 'Swine's head.' A. S. *swīn* meant a pig, or herd of swine, but it also meant the image of a boar on a helmet. York (L. *Eboracum*, A. S. *Eoforwīc*) means 'the place of the boar,' but the probability is that the boar was the ensign of some Roman regiment long quartered there. It seems a far cry from *Eoforwīc* to York, but it is a true one; *Eo-* was sounded like *yo*, and the rest gradually followed. A. S. *heafod*, M. E. *hevед*, is our modern 'head,' and has all its meanings. This place may therefore mean the head of the swine (pasture), or be a figurative name like York, or refer to some hill having a profile like that of a pig, or to an ensign or helmet found on the spot. Cp. Swineshead in Lincolnshire; Swineshead in Hunts.

Sytchampton, h., in Ombersley. M. E. *siche*, *syche*, means a rivulet, and *hamtone*, home town; but *Syche* may have become a p. n. Christina atte *Siche* is recorded in the S. R. of 1275, and the *atte* would soon drop out. *V.* Hampton.

Talton House, Talton Farm, Talton Cottage, Talton Mill, in Tredington. 991 *Tætlintune*, C. D. 676; 1275 *Tatlintone*, S. R.; 1327 *Tydelyngton, Tadlintone*, S. R.; 16 c. *Tadlington alias Tatton*. The original form would probably be *Tætl-ing-tūn*, the town of the sons of *Tætel* (*v.* Ing, and Ton).

Tansley Mill, h., 1 m. SE. of Dudley. Rightly Tansy Hill; doubtless from the wild tansy (*Potentilla Anserina*) having once flourished there. Tansy was formerly used for flavouring, and Tansy-cake and Tansy-tea were popular.

Tanwood Green, Tanwood House, 1 m. NE. of Chaddesley Corbett. 13 c. *Twenewode*, I. P. M. I think *Twene* represents M. E. *twin*, *twine*, double, twin, sundered, divided. Perhaps two woods separated by a road, or a wood through which a road had been cut, or some division made.

Tappenhall (Upper and **Lower**), h., 5 m. N. of Worcester. 957 *Tapahalan*, C. S. 993; 1038 *Tapen halan*. *Tapa* was an A. S. p. n. The *n* in both stems forms the gen. case. The meaning is Tapa's meadow or field; *v.* Hale.

Tardebigg, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Redditch. 974 *æt Tærdebicgan*, C. S. 1317; 10 c. *Terde bicg*, Hem. 362; *Terdebiggan*, Th. Ch. 451; D. *Terdeberie*; 12 c. *Terdebigge*; 1283 *Tyrdebigg*. Despite the early forms the prefix is difficult to construe; it may represent the p. n. *Tyrdda* (v. Tredington). The terminal is like nothing in A. S.; it may be Norse *bigging* (North Country *biggin*)—a house, building, but I look with great distrust on Norse words in Worcestershire before the Conquest.

Teddesley, *v.* Tidsley.

Teddington, 5 m. E. of Tewkesbury. 780 *Teottingtun*, C. S. 236; 977 *Tidingctun*, *Teodintune*, C. D. 617; 964 *Teotintun*, C. S. 1135; 10 c. several other charters with similar varying forms; c. 1046 *Theotinctun*; D. *Teotintune*; 1275 *Tedinton*, S. R. It is certain that *Teot-* represents an A. S. p. n., perhaps *Teotta*, though such a name is not recorded (*Tette* is common). That would yield an A. S. *Teottingtūn*, the town of Teotta, or the sons of Teotta, according as the *ing* is read in a possessive or patronymic sense. *V.* Ing, and Ton.

Teme, river. The A. S. form of this name is regularly *Temede* (once *Tamede*), as evidenced by numerous charters; but it is not an A. S. word. I think it clear that the Teme, the Thame, the Tame, the Tamar, and the Thames have a common root. The Romans adopted native names, adapting them to their language. Caesar writes *Tamisis*, and Tacitus *Tamisa*, for the Thames, which appears in A. S. charters as *Tamese* and *Temis*. There is a river *Temes* in Hungary, and several rivers on the continent commencing *Tam-* or *Tem-*. The root must be ascertained before any construction can be arrived at.

Tenbury. D. *Tamedeberie, Tametdeberie.* Tenbury is not mentioned in any earlier record than D. It means the *burh* (*v.* Bury) on the Teme, on which river it is situate. *V.* Teme.

Tessall Farm, in Kingsnorton. D. *Thessale* (berewick of Bromsgrove). 1275 *Thessale, Teshale;* 13 c. *Teshale. Th-* is, I think, the correct spelling, but the pronunciation was evidently *T,* as at present in *Th*omas, *Th*ame, *Th*ames, An*th*ony, &c. This may be A. S. (*ge*)*tæs,* pleasant, fair, and *hale* (q. v.)—pleasant mead (meadow land). *Tæsan mæde* (*an* dat. addition) is mentioned as a locality in C. S. 390.

Thicknel, h., in Broom. 1327 *Thikenolre, Thiknol,* S.R.—M.E. *thick, thike,* and *olre, orl,* a dialectic name for the alder-tree—the thick (close) alder. *Aller, Eller, Owler, Wallow,* are also dialectic words for the alder. The A. S. form would be *æt tham thiccan alre. V.* Tichenapletreu.

Thorne, h., in Inkberrow (moated). A. S. *thorn,* the thorn (tree).

Thornton, h., 3½ m. NW. of Pershore. 963 *Thordune,* C. S. 1110; *Thorndune,* C. D. 463; 977 *Lusthorne,* C. D. 612; 1275 *Thorndun,* S. R. A. S. *Thorndūn,* thorn hill. The *Lusthorne* of 977 is curious, and rare; *lūs* alone is our 'louse,' but in compound with *-thorne* it means the Spindle-tree, *Euonymus europaeus,* known also as the Louse-berry; 'the berries . . . powdered and sprinkled upon the hair destroy lice,' E. P. N. 314. This *Lusthorne* was a boundary mark between Thornton and Wolverton.

Three Shire Elms, in Cleeve Prior. The counties of Worcester, Gloucester, and Warwick meet here. A. S. *scīr* (shire), a district, division; it came to mean a boundary, limit.

Three Shire Oak, near the Bear Inn, Smethwick. The shires of Worcester and Warwick, and an isolated portion of Salop, which has been transferred to Worcester, met here. *V.* Three Shire Elms, *ante.*

Thrift (The), wood, in Bentley Pauncefote; **Thrift Wood,** in Crowle. This is probably a plant name, from

'Thrift' (*Armeria maritima* and *Sedum reflexum*) being common on the land. 'Thrift' is a fairly common name in connexion with woods, and is said to be sometimes a mere corruption of 'frith,' an old English word for a scrubby wood.

Throckmorton, h., p. of Fladbury. c. 1200 *Trochemerton*; c. 1220 *Trokemertun*, *Trokemardtune*; 1275 *Throkemorton*, *Trokemerton*, S. R. A. S. *throc*=a throck, piece of timber on which the share of the plough is fixed. The forms favour an original *meretūn*, pool town; but how to construe *throc* in combination with pool town I do not know; it might have been *mærtūn*, mere or boundary town (the h. stands on no ancient frontier), or *mōrtūn*, moor town, but the construction of those combinations would be equally difficult. *Throc* is not 'recorded' as a p. n., but Professor Skeat is of opinion it was one from *Throc-brig* (bridge) and *Throc-mere* (pool) being found in A. S. charters (Place-Names of Herts). Cp. Throcking, in Herts, and Throckley in Northumberland. This little place gave name to the old Worcestershire family of Throckmorton. Sir Nicholas, the head of the family, was a wealthy London banker, and gave his name to Throgmorton Street, and Nicholas Lane, in London; he is said to have been poisoned by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, in 1571.

Tibberton, 4 m. NE. of Worcester. 978 *Tidbrihtingctun*, C. D. 603; D. *Tidbertun*; 1275 *Tybrytone*, S. R.; 1304 *Tyburton*, *Tyberton*. The first form may be safely accepted, and gives us 'the town of the sons (or descendants) of Tidbriht' (recté Tidbeorht). *V.* Ing, and Ton.

Tichenapletreu, a D. manor belonging to 'Hugh the Ass,' perhaps obs. Habington says it lies partly in Dodderhill, and partly in St. Peter de Witton (Droitwich), but Nash says it lay in Hampton Lovet. 10 c. *Thiccan Apel tres* (dat.), Hem. 560; 1275 Amicia de *Thikenapeltre*, S. R.; 1346 *Tichenappletree*, S. R.—'the thick apple-tree.' This name is worth preserving, (*a*) as recording the equanimity

with which a 'Lord of the Manor' allows himself to be styled Hugh 'the Ass,' (*b*) as illustrating changes of form, and the simplicity of some pl. names. *V.* Thicknel.

Tickenhill, ancient estate in Bewdley. This is probably A. S. *ticcen*, a kid—'the Kid's hill,' but the young of the roebuck, formerly very common, was also called a kid.

Tidmington, 1½ m. S. of Shipston-on-Stour. 977 *Tidelminctune*, C. D. 614; D. *Tidelmintun*; 1275 *Tidelminton*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Tidhelm*—'the town of the sons of Tidhelm.' *V.* Ing, and Ton.

Tidsley or **Teddesley Wood,** 1 m. W. of Pershore. 963 *Teodecesleage*, C. S. 1111; this charter also mentions *Teodeces broc* in the boundaries. It belonged to the monastery of Worcester, and at the time of the dissolution of the monastery (1542) belonged 'to the Cellarer, *ad lac in conquina et ad pabula equorum hospitum*' (for milk in the kitchen and for fodder for the horses of guests). A. S. p. n. *Teodec*—Teodec's lea (*v.* Ley). The origin of this name is obscure; the *-ec* is a common diminutive. Tewkesbury is recorded as *Teodeces-byrig*, Teodec's *burh* (*v.* Bury). Probably the same *Teodec* gave name to both places. Kemble (Index to C. D.) identifies the *Teodecesleage* of 963 with Teddesley in Staffs.; but the description of the estate shows he is clearly wrong.

Tilbridge Farm, in Upton-on-Severn. 1275 Peter *de Teldrugge* and Galfrid *de Teldrugge* (*d* must be a clerical mistake for *b*) were assessed by the S. R., *s.* Upton. The forms doubtless represent a M. E. *Thelbrugge*, from an A. S. *Thelbrycg*, a plank bridge. The name is common in A. S. charters. Cp. Tilbridge Lane, Roman Way, York to Doncaster.

Timberdine, h., 1½ m. S. of Worcester. 1347 *Timberdene*. A. S. *timber-den*, Timber valley. 'Timber' meant (and means) trees large enough for building with. A. S. houses were mostly of wood. *V.* Timberhanger.

Timberhanger, h., 2 m. W. of Bromsgrove. D. *Timberhangre* (berewick of Bromsgrove); *v.* Timberdine. Hanger

(A. S. *hangra*) is a 'hanging' wood, a wood on a hillside (*v.* Hanger). This means 'a hanging wood of large trees.' *V.* Timberdine.

Timberlake, h., in Baynton. 14 c. *Tymberlake.* For *Tymber, v.* Timberdine, and Timberhanger, *ante.* A. S. *lacu* meant a wet place, a brook, but the word also came to mean a large pool.

Tinkers Farm, Tinkers (Lower), in Frankley. 1373 *Synckereslond* (land), Lyt. Ch. 202, 169. Charter 202 mentions 'Frog Mill,' an adjacent property. Charter 169 refers to Richard *le Synekar*, doubtless from his occupation. There is a popular tendency to convert a name, the meaning of which is not understood, to something which has a meaning, however absurd; and then a story is invented to account for the meaning.

Tirle Brook, rises near Teddington, flows into Severn ½ m. SW. of Tewkesbury. 780 *Tyrle*, C. S. 236; 785 *Tyrl*, C. D. 150. Not an A. S. word. Professor Skeat says:—'River names are old, and the origins of them mostly unknown; . . . it is quite unsafe to mix them up with modern words.'

Titterford Mill, Titterford Farm, in Yardley. No forms.

Titton, h., **Titton Mill,** in Hartlebury. No forms.

Tollerdine, h., in Warndon. 1327 *Tolwardyn*, S. R.; c. 1300 *Tollwardyne.* The terminal *wardine* means an estate, property (*v.* Worth). *Toll*, in A. S., means 'a toll or tax,' and also 'freedom from toll or tax.' Probably the estate was tax free, or subject to some special liability. Cp. Droitwich.

Tolton, h., 3½ m. N. of Shipston-on-Stour. *V.* Talton.

Ton, Tone, Tun, terminals and occasional prefixes, are A. S. *tūn*, dat. *tūne*, M. E. *toun*, Mod. E. *town.* The original meaning of the word was 'an enclosure, a field or place surrounded by a bank or hedge'; hence 'bar*ton*,' an

enclosure for corn, '*apple-ton*,' an apple orchard. It then came to signify 'a separate dwelling with the land enclosed about it.' Now it is usually applied to a large village, a town; but the original sense is expressed in most of our pl. names ending in 'ton.' As late as 1389 Wycliffe writes, Matt. xxii. 5: 'But thei dispisiden, and wenten forth, oon to his toun' (farm), 'anothir to his marchaundise.'

Tonge, recorded in D. as a berewick of Alvechurch, is probably now obs.; but Nash (i. 19) says it exists in the name of several lands lying between Alvechurch town and Lea End. There are many places so named. It is A. S. *tunge*, M. E. *tonge*, tongue, meaning in place names, tongue-shaped land, sometimes a strip between streams which subsequently unite, or a tongue of land between hills, or running out to sea.

Torton, h., in Hartlebury (½ m. N. of). 13 c. *Thorouthon* (on bounds of Feckenham Forest); 1275 *Torton*, S. R. The forms are corrupt. Probably the A. S. form would be *Thrūhtūn*. *Thrūh* means (*a*) a trough, pipe, conduit; (*b*) a coffin, sarcophagus. In the North a 'through-stone' means a flat gravestone. The probability is with the first construction—the town of the pipe (conduit). *V.* Pipers Hill, and Ton.

Tredington, 2 m. N. of Shipston-on-Stour. 757 *Tredingc-tun*, C. S. 183 (in this charter *Tyrdda, comes* (Earl), is said to have formerly possessed the manor); 964 *Tyrdintune*, C. S. 1135; 978 *Tredinctune*, C. D. 620; 991 *Tredintune*, C. D. 676; D. *Tredinctun*; 1275 *Trediuton*. The prefix represents the A. S. p. n. *Tyrdda*. This is supported by the charter of 964. The other forms point to *Treda*; but the fact of Tyrdda having been an ancient owner (before 757) is confirmatory evidence; besides, the shifting of *r*, preceding a vowel, is common. I read this as 'the town of the sons of Tyrdda.' *V.* Ing, and Ton.

Trench Lane, in Himbleton and Huddington, 3 m. SE.

of Droitwich. 1327 *Trench*, S. R.; 1648 *A Highway called the Trench*. This is said to have been a saltway. *Trench* is not an Old English word but borrowed from the French. One of its meanings is a road or lane cut through a shrubbery or wood; Chaucer uses it in that sense, and it is probably applicable to this case, the road running through woodland. I am not aware of any evidence that it was a saltway, but it is certainly an ancient road, and may have joined the Lechlade saltway at Pershore. Cp. Trench, near Ellesmere; Trench Lane, near Wem; Trench Lane, near Wellington, Salop.

Trent. There was a stream so named between the Honeybournes and Evesham, C. D. iii. p. 396. The name appears to be obsolete; it is worth recording, as it is certainly prehistoric. The meaning of 'Trent' is unknown.

Trimpley, h., in Kidderminster. D. *Trinpelei*, berewick of Kidderminster; 1275 *Trympeleye*, S. R.; 14 and 15 c. *Trympleye*. The terminal is *ley* (q.v.); but the prefix is too corrupt to construe.

Trotshall, h., in Warndon (½ m. S. of). 16 c. *Trotswell, aunciently Tottreswell*; 18 c. *Trotshill, Trotswell*. The prefix probably represents a p. n., but I cannot identify it; the terminal is clearly 'well' (spring).

Tuck Mill, f., in Broadway; **Tuck Mill,** in Welland; **Tuck (The)** (wood), in Spetchley. A Tuck-mill is a 'fulling or cloth mill'; *v.* Walk Mill. A Tucker is a cloth-worker, hence the family name Tucker. The Tuck, as applied to a wood, needs some local knowledge. The root is A. S. *tucian*, to pull, pluck, full (cloth).

Tump Farm, in Staunton; **Tump (The),** in Eldersfield; **Tump (The),** in Tenbury. This is not an A. S. word; we appear to have borrowed it from the W. *twmp*, a hillock, mound. Cp. L. *tumulus*.

Tun, *v.* Ton.

Tuneslega, an unrecognized D. berewick of Bromsgrove.

If not obsolete its modern name should be Tunsley. A. S. p. n. *Tun*—Tun's lea (*v.* Ley).

Tutnall, in Claines, 3 m. N. of Worcester. 1275 *Totenhull*, S. R.; 1327 *Totenhull*, S. R. *V.* Tutnall Cross, *post.*

Tutnall Cross, h., 2 m. E. of Bromsgrove. D. *Tothehel*, berewick of Bromsgrove. 13 c. *Tottenhull*, *Totenhull*; 1275 *Totenhull*, S. R.; 16 c. *Tuttenhill*. 'Cross,' it will be observed, is a mediaeval addition—it may be because the hamlet stands at cross roads. Mr. W. H. Stevenson suggests that the original form has been *æt Tuttan-hyl*—Tutta's hill, which would yield a modern Tutnall. *V.* Tutnall, *ante.*

Twyford, h., 1½ m. N. of Evesham. 714 *Tuiforde*, C. S. 130; 10 c. *Twyfyrde*, 3 C. D. 396. A. S. *twifyrde*, double ford, or two fords. *V.* Ford.

Tyseley, h., **Tyseley Farm** (moated), in Yardley. 1327 *Tisseleye*. A. S. p. n. *Tisa*—Tisa's lea (*v.* Ley).

Uckinghall, h., ½ m. W. of Ripple. 1275 *Hugingehale*, *Hugingale*, S. R.; 16 c. *Ogginhale*. I think the prefix represents the A. S. p. n. *Ucca*+*ing*, in which case the original form would be *Uccingaheale*—the hall (or meadow land) of the sons of Ucca. *Uckinge esher* and *Uckingeford* are found in C. S. 158, 300, 727, and 1072. *V.* Ing, and Hale.

Uffmoor Farm, Uffmore Green, Uffmore Wood, *v.* Offmoor.

Uffnell Farm, in Whittington; **Uffnell Bridge,** in Pershore. No forms, but I think the modern name represents an original A. S. *Uffanhyl*—Uffa's hill; *Uffa* and *Offa* are only variant forms of the same p. n.

Uphampton, h., in Ombersley (1 m. NW. of). 1275 *Huphamtone*, S. R. I suppose this must be read Up-hometown, A. S. *uppe*, M. E. *up*, having the same meanings as modern *up*. *V.* Ham, and Ton.

Upthorp, h., 4 m. N. of Shipston-on-Stour. 990 *Uppthrop*, C. D. 674. A. S. *thorp, throp*, means a hamlet, village. It is a very common word in the North, but rare in Worcestershire, where I find only two examples, this and Huntingthrop. *Up = Upper.*

Upton (Old), h., in Blockley. 1275 *Uptone*, S. R. A. S. *uppe*, M. E. *up*, up, above, on high—Uptown. *V.* Ton.

Upton-on-Severn. 988 *Uptune*, C. D. 668; D. *Uptun*; 1275 *Uptone*, S. R. *Uptune* is mentioned in C. S. 579, a. 888; C. S. 1282, a. 972; and C. D. 668, a. 988; but which Upton is referred to it would be hard to say; the meaning is clearly—Up or Upper town; 'on Severn' is a mediaeval addition to distinguish it from other Uptons.

Upton Snodsbury, 6 m. E. of Worcester. Upton and Snodsbury were formerly distinct. 840 *Snoddes lea* is mentioned in C. S. 428 as on the bounds of Crowle, the adjoining parish; 972 *Snoddesbyri*, C. S. 1281; D. *Snodesbyrie*; 1275 *Snodesbury*; 1275 *Uptone*, S. R.; 1327 *Upton-Snodesbury*. It is possible that some of the charters referred to under Upton-on-Severn relate to this Upton, the meaning of which is, of course, Uptown (*v.* Ton). *Snodd* was a rare A. S. p. n., and this is Snodd's *burh* (*v.* Bury). In the 9 c. the name seems to have been Snodd's lea (*v.* Ley); both names clearly refer to the same place. In early times terminals frequently oscillated.

Upton Warren, 3 m. SW. of Bromsgrove. 714 *Uptone*, C. S. 134; D. *Uptune*; 1275 *Uptone*, S. R. Perhaps some of the A. S. charters mentioned under Upton-on-Severn refer to this place; meaning Up town (*v.* Uptons, *ante*). The Warins and Fitz-Warins owned the manor in the 13 and 14 c.

Usmere, an ancient province around Kidderminster. *V.* Ismere, and Broadwaters.

Vigo, h., in Stoke Prior. There are many localities called 'The Vigo' in the Midlands, but as I have not met

with any early forms I think it a mere fancy name introduced here after the victory at Vigo in Spain, in 1702. Cp. Bunkers Hill.

Wadborough, h., 3½ m. NW. of Pershore. 972 *Wadbeorh*, C. S. 1282; D. *Wadberge*. This is rather a common name for hills. It is A. S. *wād-beorh*, woad hill. Woad was a plant formerly used for dyeing blue, and in early times, when families or communities commonly made their own clothing, was much cultivated. It is now almost superseded by indigo. Caesar tells us that our British ancestors 'stained themselves with woad, which produces a blue colour, and gives them a more horrible appearance in battle.' It was an exhausting crop, and often forbidden in leases.

Waddon Hill, ½ m. W. of Shipston-on-Stour. *Hwætdune*, Hem. 347.—Wheat Hill. *V.* Don. Waddon, in Surrey, has a similar root.

Walcot, h., 2 m. NW. of Pershore. 12 c. *Walecot*; 1275 *Walecote*, S. R.; 14 c. *Walcote*. The terminal is plain A. S. *cot*, a cot. *Wale-* is a difficult word to construe; it represents A. S. *wealh*, meaning (*a*) a stranger, foreigner, (*b*) a p. n., (*c*) a serf. There are some hundreds of Waltons and Walcots in England, always found in Mercian A. S. as *Waletun* or *Walecot*, but in East Midland and Southern charters as *Weal(h)-*; e.g. White Walton in Berks. was *Wealtun*, C. S. 762; Walton near Peterborough, *Wealtun*, C. D. 726; Walton in Suffolk, *Wealtune* in 1046; and Bishops Walton, Hants, *Wealtham* in 909; probably meaning 'the town or home of the serf.' Cp. the numerous Charltons and Carltons—the churl or husbandman's town—a degree above the serf, the churl being free. I translate this 'the serfs' cot,' though also it may be 'Wealh's cot,' or 'the strangers' cot.' Professor Skeat writes: 'M. E. *wale*= O. Merc. *wala*=A. S. *weala*, the correct gen. pl. of *wealh*.

The gen. sing.=A. S. *weales*; so it means "cot of the strangers," i. e. of the Britons.'

Walk, Walkwood, in Web Heath; **Walk Mills Farm,** in Bromsgrove; **Walk Mills Farm,** in Dodderhill. A walk mill is a fulling or cloth mill, from A. S. *wealcere*, M. E. *walker*, a fuller of cloth, from the verb *wealcan*, M. E. *walke*, to roll. Hence the p. names Walker and Fuller. These 'walk mills' were common in country districts toward the end of the 18 c., when the manufacture of cloth began to centralize.

Walloxhill, h., in Halesowen. 1309 *Wallokeshale*; 1343 *Walloxhale*. I doubt if this name survives, though it is an ancient hamlet, and gave name to an old family. The prefix probably represents the A. S. masc. p. n. *Wealuc*, gen. *Wealuces*, a regularly formed, but unrecorded, diminutive of a compound name commencing *Wealh-*. The meaning is Wealuc's meadow land. *V.* Hale.

Walton Hill, in Clent. c. 1400, 1553, *Walton*; 1615 *Walton hill*. The earliest form here is in 1400, and by that time 'Walton' had become a fairly common family name. With present materials it is impossible to say whether the place takes its name from a family residing there, or from an older root. In the latter case I assume the A. S. form to have been *Waleton*, and should translate it 'the town of the serfs'; *v.* Walcot.

Walton, h., in Hartlebury. 1325 *Walton*. *V.* Walcot, and Walton, *ante*.

Wannerton, h., **Wannerton Down,** in Churchill, near Kidderminster. D. *Wenvertun* (berewick of Kidderminster); 1275 *Wenforton*, S. R.; 1327 *Wenforton*, S. R.; 14 c. *Wennortun*, *Wenforton*; 1415 *Wenforton*. The terminal is plain *ton*, q. v. Professor Skeat suggests that *Wenver-*, *Wenfor-* represent the A. S. p. n. *Wenforth*—Wenforth's town.

Waresley, Waresley Court, Waresley House, h., in Hartlebury. 817 *Wæresleye*, C. S. 361; 980 *Wereslæge*,

C. D. 627 ; 979 *Wæreslæge*, C. S. 627 ; c. 1108 *Wæreseley* ; 12 c. *Wareslei*. *Wær* was an A. S. p. n., and also formed the prefix to many names, such as *Wærbeald*, *Wærburh*, *Wærfrith*, &c. This is Wær's lea (*v.* Ley). Waresley, in Hunts, its old forms show to be 'Wethers' (sheep) lea.'

Warkwood, h., 2 m. SW. of Redditch. 1242 *Werewode*, I. P. M. (I think this should be read *Werkewode* ; there must have been a *k* or hard *c*.) *Weorc* was an A. S. p. n., and is also our modern word 'work,' with all its meanings, including a fort, building, &c. Newark = New work. *Werke* and *Wark* were M. E. forms of *weorc*. There may have been an old fort or 'work' in or near the wood.

Warley-Wigorn, h., anciently in Halesowen Manor. D. *Werwelie* ; 13 and 14 c. *Werneleye*, *Weruelege*, *Wereulegh*, *Werweleye* ; 15 c. frequently, *Werueleye*. Probably the *n* in the second form is a mistake for *u*, as it is never repeated. Warley lay partly in Salop and partly in Worcestershire, hence Warley-Salop and Warley-Wigorn (Wigornia being the common Latin name for Worcestershire) ; these additions are modern (17 c.). The Salop portion has been transferred to Worcester. ('The prefix must be much shortened ; it probably represents a p. n., perhaps *Wærwulf*.' Skeat.) The terminal is doubtless *ley*, q. v.

Warndon, 4 m. NE. of Worcester. D. *Wermedun* ; 1275 *Warmdone*, S. R. *Werme* is not a recorded A. S. p. n., but I think it must have been one, as *Wermes hore*, Werm's boundary, is recorded in C. S. 970, a. 956 (relating to Dorsets.). The *s* before *d* would be likely to drop out. I construe this 'Werm's hill' (*v.* Don). A. S. *wyrm* means a snake, serpent, worm. In M. E. it becomes *werm*, and it would be right to translate the name 'Snake (or serpent's) hill' ; but the p. n. is the most likely.

Warridge Lodge, 1½ m. E. of Bromsgrove, stands close to the boundary between Bromsgrove and Upton Warren.

The original form was probably A. S. *Hārhrycg*, boundary ridge. *Hār* (hoar) has a tendency in late M. E. to become *War*; *v.* Warstone, Warstock, Hoarstone.

Warshill Camp, prehistoric fort, 2½ m. W. of Kidderminster, close to the border of Worcestershire and Staffordshire. Immediately below is 'Hoarstone Farm.' Adjoining Warshill Camp, 'Wassell Copse' and 'Wassell Farm' appear on the O. M. of 1832; in the later editions both these places are called 'Warshill.' Without forms, and the real modern name being apparently unsettled, any construction can only be 'guess.' It may have been originally A. S. *weardsetl*, a place where watch was kept. *V.* Wassall Grove, and Wastill.

Warstock House, Warstock Farm, Warstock Lane, on the boundary of Kingsnorton and Yardley. The original form would be *Hārstóc* (hoarstoke), boundary place (*v.* Stoke). The change from *Hār-* to *War-* took place about the year 1500, and is not singular; *whore* until then was *hore*, and *whole* was *hole*. Leland, c. 1540, says, 'Clee hills be *holy*' (wholly) 'in Shropshire'; and some modern writers have assumed them to be 'holy' to Salopians, and marvelled wherefore.

Warstone Farm, in Frankley, on the boundary between Frankley and Halesowen, formerly also the boundary between Worcestershire and a detached portion of Salop. The original form would be *Hārstān* (hoarstone)—boundary stone. *V.* Hoarstone, Warstock.

Wassall Grove, h., 2½ m. SW. of Halesowen. 1275 *Warselde*, S. R.; 1327 *Warsfelde*, S. R.; 1603 *Wassell*, S. R. This, I think, should be read *Warsfelde*, the terminal being A. S. and M. E. *feld*, field, and the prefix the p. n. *Wær*—Wær's field (*v.* Waresley, Field). The forms are rather late, and Mr. W. H. Stevenson suggests that the original may have been *Weardseld*, worn down by 1275 to *Warselde*, meaning a watch-tower, or place where watch was kept

(*v.* Warshill Camp). (In A. S. *seld* and *sell* are synonyms.) The first form favours Mr. Stevenson's suggestion.

Wastill, h., in Kingsnorton (1½ m. SW. of), and **Waste Hills,** adjoining. 730 *Wærsetfelde*, C. S. 234; 780 *Wærsethylle*, C. S. 847; 849 *Wearsetfelde*, *Weorset hylle*, C. S. 455; 930 *Werst felde*, *Wærsethylle*, C. S. 701; D. *Warstelle* (berewick of Alvechurch); 1275 *Wasthulle*, S. R.; 1327 *Wasthulle*, S. R. The O. M. of 1832, 1 in., gives these names as above; the O. M. of 1901, 6 in., perversely alters both names to 'West Hill,' and adds also 'West Heath' and 'West Heath Farm.' Our local names are really better preserved by the illiterate than by the educated. The terminals are of course 'hill' and 'field,' but I cannot interpret *wærset*; it is not a p. n., and the forms are too early to admit the suggestion that *wærset* represents *weard-setl*. *V.* Wassall Grove.

Weatheroak, h., **Weatheroak Hill,** 2½ m. NE. of Alvechurch. 1230 *Wederoke*; 1327 *Wederhoke*, S. R. M. E. *weder*, weather, and *oke*, oak—weather oak. Weather may be used in the sense of 'exposed'; we speak of a *weather*-cock, really *wind*-cock. Weatheroak Hill stands on the bounds of three manors, and the oak was probably a boundary mark.

Web House, ½ m. W. of Hanbury, takes its name from a family of *Webbe*, *Wibbe*, *Wybbe*, who, Hab. says, p. 257, formerly had an estate in Hanbury, and 'leafte theyre surname to theyre habitation.' William Webbe was living in Hanbury in 1275, S. R. It is a trade name meaning a weaver.

Welland, 3 m. W. of Upton-on-Severn. 1196 *Weneland*; 1299 *Wenlond*; 13 c. *Wenelond*; 1385 *Wenland*; 1461 *Wenelond*. The terminal is A. S. *land*, M. E. *lond*, modern 'land,' with its varied meanings. Professor Skeat suggests an original *Wennan-land*, Wenna's land (*Wenna* being an A. S. p. n.), which would become *Wenne-land*, *Wene-land*, *Wen-land*, *Welland* regularly; *ll* from *nl*.

Weolegh Castle (moated), in Northfield. 1275 *Weleye*, S. R.; 14 c. *Weleg*, *Weleye*, *Weolegh*, *Welegh*. ('The prefix probably represents A. S. *wæl*, M. E. *wæl*, *weel*, a deep pool, or stream; the terminal is *ley*, q. v.—"the lea of the deep pool." In the North *Well-ey* describes that part of a quagmire in which there is a spring.' Skeat.) There was a mediaeval castle here.

Weredeshale, an unrecognized D. berewick of Bromsgrove. The name may cling, in some form, to a farm or field. ('Obviously A. S. *weorodesheale* (dat.), a place occupied by a "host," where a set of men squatted in company.' Skeat.) *V.* Hale.

Westmancote, h., in Bredon, 4½ m. NE. of Tewkesbury. D. *Westmonecote*; 1275 *Westmonecote*, S. R. I think this is Westman's cot. Though the name is not recorded in any A. S. charter, it appears in D., among the Under-tenants of Land, as *Wesman*. ('More likely *Westmonna*, gen. pl., West-*men's* cote.' Skeat.)

Westwood, h., **Westwood Park,** 2 m. W. of Droitwich. There was anciently a house of Benedictine nuns here, subject to the monastery of Fonteveraud, in Normandy. 972 *Westwude*, C. S. 1284; 1275 *Westwode*, S. R. Plain West-wood.

Whiston, h., in Claines. 1262 *Wystan*, *Wytstan*; 13 and 14 c. *Wyston*, *Whiston*. 'So called from a white stone or cross erected here. In William the Conqueror's time this stone was pulled down, and used to build a lavatory for the monks of St. Mary.' Nash, i. 209 *n.*, citing Heming. The original form of the name would be *Hwītstān*.

Whiteford Mill, Whiteford Farm, 1 m. W. of Bromsgrove. D. *Witeurde*; 1327 John de *Whyteford*, S. R. The *urde* of D. represents an A. S. *worth*; *Wite*, probably A. S. *hwīt*—White farm (*v.* Worth). The terminal changed from *worth* to *ford* before 1327. Nash (i. 153) identifies Whitford with *Witeurde*.

White Ladies Aston, *v.* Aston (White Ladies).

White-leaved Oak, Malvern Hills. The counties of Hereford, Gloucester, and Worcester meet here. I have no information about the tree; the *Quercus sessiliflora* is commonly called 'White Oak,' and 'Marden Oak.'

Whitlench, Old Whitlench, in Elmley Lovett. 969 *æt Hwitanhlince*, C. D. 560.—White Lench. *V.* Lench.

Whittinge, h., in Hartlebury. 1325 *Whitelyng*, *Whyteling*. *Ling*, *lyng*, is a M. E. or dialectic word for heath plants or heather. It is probably of Norse origin. The prefix appears to be 'white'—White ling (heather); *ling* is not 'recorded' in our language before 1357 (H. E. D.); here it is in common parlance, in 1325.

Whittington, 3 m. SE. of Worcester. 816 *Huitington*, C. S. 367; 989 *Hwitntun*, C. D. 670; Heming's Chartulary gives the name as *Huitingtun*, *Huuitingtun*, *Hwitunlune*; D. *Widintun*. The forms represent A. S. *Hwītinga-tūn*—the town of the Whitings (or sons of Hwīt).

Whore Nap, h., 2½ m. SW. of Henley-in-Arden, lies on the boundary of the counties of Worcester and Warwick, and on a ridge. 'Whore' is only a corrupt and late form of A. S. *hār*, *hore*, a boundary (*v.* Hoarstone, Warstock); *Nap* is A. S. *cnæp*, M. E. *knap*, a small hill (*v.* Knap)—the boundary hill.

Wiburgestoke, an unrecognized D. berewick of Harvington (near Evesham). A. S. *Wigburge*, gen. of *Wigburh*, fem. p. n., and *stoke*, q. v.—Wigburh's stoke (place). Heming mentions this berewick four times, and it is perhaps, in some form, still a farm or field name.

Wiccii, Hwiccii. This name is commonly met with in A. S. charters in the sense of the people of an ancient kingdom, which comprised the present counties of Worcester, Gloucester, and parts of Warwickshire and Herefordshire. It appears to have been originally independent, but, later on, tributary to the Mercian kings. In 693 Oshere is called 'rex *Huicciorum*,' C. S. 85. In 706 Æthelweard subscribes

himself 'sub-regulus' son of Oshere 'quondam regis *Wicciorum*,' C. S. 116. In 714 we find 'episcopus *Wicciorum*,' C. S. 130. In 757 Eanberht subscribes himself 'regulus propriae gentis *Hwicciorum*,' and his brothers, Uhtred and Aldred, are confirming parties, C. S. 183. In 759 the three brothers each subscribe as 'regulus,' by the licence and permission of Offa, king of the Mercians, C. S. 187. In 767 Uhtred subscribes as 'regulus,' Aldred 'sub-regulus,' and Milred 'episcopus *Hwicciorum*,' Offa again consenting, C. S. 202. Under the year 800 the A. S. Chronicle mentions Æthelmund, alderman of *Hwiccium* (dat. pl.). By 875 the Mercian kings appear to have assumed direct authority over the *Hwiccii*, though Werferth is recognized as Bishop *Wiciorum*, C. S. 541. These notes are sufficient for our purpose. We may assume that the people were *Hwiccii*, or *Hwicciorum* (in gen. forms), but the meaning of those words or their connexion, if any, with *wich* we do not know. The names of ancient kingdoms are as puzzling as the names of ancient rivers.

Wich, Wick, Wyke, a common terminal and occasional prefix, is A. S. *wīc*, M. E. *wic*, *wike*, *wyke*, a dwelling, village, &c.; *wīc* was probably palatal (wych) in pronunciation (the *i* producing this palatalization of the *c*). In any case palatalization would occur in the dat. sing. *wice*; the *k* form remained in *wīca*, gen. pl., *wīcum*, dat. pl., where the final vowel precluded palatalization. The word is not to be confounded with *wick*, on the coast, generally from O. N., and meaning a bay; nor is it to be assumed that *wich*, as applied to salt towns, is the A. S. *wīc*. Skeat (Etymological Dict. 709) treats that *wich* as = a brine-pit, and of Norse origin; but *Wich* was a common name for salt towns, e. g. Nant*wich*, Middle*wich*, North*wich*, Droit*wich*, Shirley-*wich*, centuries before Norsemen set foot in the country. If *wich* = a brine-spring, it is in some archaic language; and we do not know whether the original form was *hwic*

or *wīc*; *v.* Wiccii. D. records fifty-six manors as *Wich* or *Wiche*, of which twenty-eight have 'Salinae' attached to them, so that there must have been some connexion between *wich* and salt. ('I do not know why Nantwich, &c. are centuries older than the Danes, who held nearly all England, except Somerset and Devon, early in Alfred's time (871–902). I think that both L. *uicus* and Norse *wīk* were borrowed into English, and that both alike gave *wick* in the nominative, and *wich* in the dat.; so that both had the double form. The "archaic language" in which *wich* meant "brine-pit" was English, because a word meaning "creek" could so easily also mean "brine-pit." Toller gives *sealt-wīc*, a place where salt was sold; but it must first have been made; and I believe that the original sense of *sealt-wīc* may very well have been "salt creek" or salt-pit. Anyhow, we have *sealt* actually compounded with *wīc*. The Norse *vīk* is extremely common in pl. names in Scandinavia. Cp. *Salt-fleet*, where *fleet* refers to "stream," not to a town.' Skeat.)

Wichbold, 2 m. N. of Droitwich. 692 *Uuicbold*, C. S. 77; 815 *Uuicbold*, C. S. 353; 831 *Wichold*, C. S. 400; D. *Wicelbold*; M. E. forms *Wicbald, Wichbald, Wichbaud, Wichbould*. The charter of 692 says 'in vico quem nobili vocitant nomine Uuicbold'; that of 815 is tested by Cœnwulf, king of the Mercians, 'in vico regis qui dicitur Uuicbold'; that of 831 is signed by Wiglaf, king of the Mercians, 'in regale villo quae nominatur Wicbold.' It is therefore probable that Wichbold was a permanent residence of the kings (or Reguli, as they were sometimes termed) of the Wiccii, who were tributary to the Mercian kings, and also an occasional resort of the Mercian kings themselves. The terminal *bold* in A. S. has two meanings: (*a*) a house, (*b*) a superior house, a palace. The prefix *Wic-* or *Wich-* is probably derived from its vicinity to 'Wich' (Droitwich), and I take the meaning to be 'the palace at (or near) Wich'; that word can be more conveniently dealt with by itself. *V.* Wich.

Wichbury or **Wychbury Hill,** a prehistoric fort in Pedmore. No forms. For the terminal *v.* Bury.

Wichenford, 6 m. NW. of Worcester. 1007 *Wiceneford,* Thorpe's Charters, p. 600; 15 and 16 c. *Wickenford.* The form of 1007 represents *Wicena-ford*—the ford of Wich-elms, from A. S. *wice* (*ce* = *ch*), a wich-elm.

Wick, h., 1 m. E. of Pershore. D. *Wiche, Wicha.* A. S. *wīc,* a village. *V.* Wich.

Wick (probably now **Henwick**), **Rushwick, Lower Wick, Upper Wick,** 2 m. W. of Worcester. *æt Wican,* C. S. 1139. The boundaries show this Wick to be N. of Teme. A. S. *wic* (nom.), a village. *V.* Wich.

Wickhamford, 3 m. SE. of Evesham. 709 *Wicwon,* C. S. 125; 972 *Wigwenn,* C. S. 1281; *on Wicweoniga gemæra,* C. D. iii. 396; D. *Wiquene*; 1275 *Wike Waneford,* S. R.; 1332 *Wykewane,* S. R. The only thing clear here is *-ford* (q. v.), and that is a M. E. addition. The earlier forms are insoluble. The adjoining manor of Childs Wickham, 2 m. S., but in Gloucestershire, is *Childeswicwon* and *Wicwone* in C. S. 117, a. 706. The names appear to have a common origin.

Wilden, h., in Stourport. 1275 *Wybeldone,* S. R. A. S. p.n. *Wigbeald* (bold in war)—Wigbeald's hill. *V.* Don.

Wild Moor, in Bellbroughton, 3 m. N. of Bromsgrove. 1275 *La Wildemore,* S. R.—'the wild moor.'

Willingsworth Farm, in Upton-on-Severn. Willingsworth is an ancient name, and not uncommon. It means 'the farm or property of Willing,' i. e. the son of Willa.

Willingwick, h., in Bromsgrove (N. of). D. *Welingewiche, Willingewic*; 13 c. *Wylincwyke, Willingwike.* D. says, 'there are three miles of wood . . . but the king has afforested it,' probably as part of the Lickey Forest. The forms represent an original *Willinga-wic*—the village of the Willings (or sons of Willa). *V.* Ing, and Wich.

Winnall, h., in Ombersley. 1275 *Wylnchale* (3), S. R.;

1327 *Whilenhale, Wylenhale,* S. R. I think these forms represent an A. S. *Willanhale,* Willa's hall, or meadow land (*v.* Hale). Willenhall, in Staffordshire, was *æt Willanhalch* in 732—Willa's meadow land.

Winterdine, mansion in Bewdley. Not an ancient name; built by Sir Edward Winnington c. 1760.

Winterfold, h., in Chaddesley Corbett (1 m. W. of). 1275 *Wynterfold,* S. R.; 1327 *Wynterfolde,* S. R. A. S. *Winter-fold,* a fold, or yard, for wintering cattle in.

Withall, h., 4 m. NE. of Alvechurch. 1275 *Withale,* S. R. D. records *Warthuile* as one of the eighteen berewicks belonging to Bromsgrove Manor; Nash identifies it with Withall, and Mr. J. Horace Round, in his Domesday Survey of Worcestershire, inclines to the identity, with reserve. Certainly there is no other place in the county so likely as Withall to represent this D. *Warthuile. Warthuile* must be a corrupt form and is untranslatable. The form of 1275 points to an A. S. prefix of *withig* (*g*=*y*), a willow, withy, and *hale,* meadow land (*v.* Hale)—Withy meadow. *Withig-mæd* (meadow), *Withig-ford, Withig-lea, Withig-wic, Withig-mōr, Withig-slæd, Withig-brōc,* and similar forms, are common in A. S. charters.

Withy Wells, 1 m. N. of Spetchley. *V.* Sundays Hill.

Witley, h., **Witley Lodge, Whitley Colliery,** in Halesowen. 14 and 15 c. *Whiteleyfeld, Whyteleyfeld,* Lyt. Ch. Accepting the forms this is White-lea-field (*v.* Ley, and Field); but earlier forms might yield a different meaning.

Witley (Great), 10½ m. NW. of Worcester; **Witley (Little),** h., in Holt (2 m. W. of). It will be convenient to deal with these together, the forms being practically alike, and difficult to distinguish. 964 *Wittleage,* C. S. 1134; 969 *Witleag,* C. S. 1242; 972 *Witlea, Witleage,* C. D. 682; 11 c. *Wihtlega,* Th. Ch. 600; D. *Witlege;* 1275 *Witleye,* S. R. The forms are all late A. S., and have no inflections, consequently it is impossible to construe *Wit-.* It may represent

a p. n. *Wita*, *Hwīt*, or *hwīt*, white (colour); but then the forms ought to be *Witanleage*, or *Hwitanleage*. Though Witley is a common name it cannot be construed with the forms before us. Many Witleys are certainly 'white lea.' *V.* Ley, and Whitlench.

Witton, h., in Droitwich. 714 *Wittona*, C. S. 134; 1043 *Hwitonam*, C. D. 916; D. *Witune in Wich*, *Witone in Wich*; 12 c. *Witton Petri Corbezun*; 1340 *Wytton St. Peter*, *Wytton St. Mary*. At the time of D. Witton was held in two manors, one by Urse d'Abitot, the other by William, son of Corbucion. The form of 1043 is latinized, and clearly represents an A. S. *hwīt-tūn*, white town (*v.* Ton).

Wolfho—Wolf hill; there was a place so named in Alvechurch in 1327, *v.* S. R.; probably now obsolete.

Wollashill, ancient estate and mansion in Eckington, on Bredon Hill. 1275 *Wolaueshull*, S. R.; 13 c. *Wollaveshall*. The original form in A. S. would be *Wulflafes-hyl*—Wulflaf's hill (*v.* Hill).

Wollaston Hall, 1 m. NW. of Stourbridge. 1327 *Wolarston*, S. R. The prefix certainly represents an A. S. p. n. commencing *Wulf-*, I think *Wulfgar*, a common name—Wulfgar's town (*v.* Ton).

Wollescote, h., in Oldswinford. 1275 *Wulfrescote*, S. R. A. S. p. n. *Wulfhere*—Wulfhere's cot.

Wolverley, 2½ m. N. of Kidderminster. 866 *Wulfferdinleh*, *Wulferdinlea*: this charter is a grant by Burgred, king of the Mercians, to *Wulfferd*; only a late copy exists and it is evidently corrupt; 866 *Wulfweardiglea*, C. S. 514; 1046 *Wulfweardiglea*, C. D. 766; D. *Ulwardlei* (*Ul* is a common D. form for *Wulf*; the Normans could not pronounce, and would not write, *Wu-*); 1275 *Wolffardeleye*, S. R. The original A. S. form was clearly *Wulfweard-ingaleage*, 'the lea of the sons of Wulfweard.' This would develop regularly into *Wulferding-*, *Wulverding-*, &c. *V.* Ley, and Ing.

Wolverton, 4 m. NW. of Pershore. 977 *Wulfringetune*, C. D. 612; 984 *Wulfringtune, Wulfrinton*, C. D. 645; D. *Ulfrinton* (*Ulf* = *Wulf*); 1275 *Wolfertone*, S. R. The original A. S. form would be *æt Wulfheringa-tune*, the town of the sons of Wulfhere. *V.* Ton, and Ing.

Woodbury Hill, prehistoric fort, in Great Witley. The A. S. form would probably be *Wudu-burh-hyl*, meaning 'wooded fort hill'; *v.* Bury.

Woodcock Hill, in Northfield. Henry *Wodecoc* was living in Northfield in 1275 (S. R.), and probably conferred his name on this place.

Woodcote, farm, 3 m. W. of Bromsgrove. D. *Udecote* (*Ude* = *Wode*); 1275 *Wodecote*, S. R.—Wood cot; was a berewick (outlying farm) belonging to Bromsgrove Manor.

Woodhall, in Norton by Kempsey (½ m. E. of). 1275 *Wodeworthin*, S. R.—Wood farm; *v.* Worth.

Woodhall, h., 1½ m. E. of Kempsey. 1275 *Wodewelle*, S. R.—Wood well (spring). The change from 'well' to 'hall' is not uncommon, the pronunciation tending to 'Woodal.'

Woodhampton, h., in Astley. Wood-home-town; *p* excrescent, *v.* Hampton.

Woodhouse (The), Wood Row, h., in Chaddesley Corbett (1 m. N. of), probably represent *Wodehamcote*, recorded in the S. R. of 1275, under Drayton, a h. in Chaddesley. By 1327 the name had been shortened to *Wodecote*, S. R. *s.* Chaddesley. Two families appear to have resided there, both in 1275 and 1327—perhaps squatters on the outskirts of Feckenham Forest. The meaning is 'the home-cot in the wood.'

Woodhouse, h., 1½ m. SE. of Ombersley. 1275 *Wodehuse* (M. E. form).—Wood house.

Woodmancote, h., in Defford (1 m. SW. of). Probably Woodman's or Woodmen's cot, but *Wodemon* (Woodman) is recorded as a Worcestershire family name in 1275, S. R.

Woodmanton, ancient estate in Clifton-on-Teme. 1275 *Wodemonton*, S. R. M. E. *Wodemon*, woodman—Woodman's or Woodmen's town; *v.* Ton.

Woodnorton, h., in Norton, in the Scars Wood.—Wood north town.

Woodson (**Upper** and **Lower**), h., in Lindridge. 1275 *Wodeston*, S. R. *Wuda* was an A. S. p. n., which in M. E. became *Wode* (later Wood); this is Wode's town; *v.* Ton.

Woolstans Farm, in Astley. 1327 *Hugo de Wolstone*, S. R. The original form would be *Wulfstanes-tūn*, Wulfstan's town (*v.* Ton); the *-ton* has naturally dropped off.

Worcester. It has been said by early historians that the British name of Worcester was *Caer Wrangon* (City of *Gwrangon*); Mr. Henry Bradley (An English Miscellany, 15) suggests that Warwick was so named, and that the identification of Worcester with Caer Wrangon, current since the twelfth century, may be disregarded; and he adds, 'the British name of Worcester is known to have been *Wigornia*.' Bede does not mention Worcester, but refers to the locality as the country of the *Hwiccas* and *Huiccii*. Worcester is referred to in innumerable A. S. charters, the earliest in 691, as *Weogorna civitate*, *Wigerna cester*, *Weogornensis æcclesiæ*, *Wigorn(ensis)*, *Wigranceastre*, *Wegern*, *Weogorn*, *Wigorn*, *Wegern*, *Wigerna*, *Weogerna civitate*, *Weogerna cestre*, *Weogorna civitate*, *Wigorna ceastre*, *Wigrecestre*, *Weogorna ceastre*, *Weogernaceastre*, *Wigreceaster*, *Wigorn*, *Weogern*, *Wigorn*, *in metropoli Huicciorum*, *Wigraceastre*, *Wigeraceastre*, *Wihgeraceastre*. (These forms are in order of date to 10 c.) D. *Wirecestre*. The county has similar forms, with the addition of *-scire* in the 10 c. The forms, upon the whole, appear to justify Mr. Bradley's opinion that the original name was *Wigornia* (or *Weogorn*), and what that means, or what language it is related to, nobody knows. The *cester* (dat. *ceastre*) is an A. S. addition, meaning a city or fortress, and may always be considered

indicative of Roman occupation. The change from the earlier to the later forms may be accounted for by the tendency of an A. S. *g*, especially between vowels, to be sounded like *y*. D. adopts the *Wire-* form, and the passage to *Wor-* is natural.

Worsley Farm, in Abberley (1 m. N. of). 12 c. *Wermeslai*, *Werwesleye*; 1275 *Worvesle*, S. R.; 1327 *Werwesle*; 1332 *Worsley*; 1603 *Worsley*. There is a 'Wordley' Farm 1½ m. E. of Abberley, but I think all the forms refer to Worsley. The prefix doubtless represents a p. n., probably *Wærwulf*—Wærwulf's lea (*v.* Ley).

Worth, a common terminal, is A. S. *worth*, *weorth*, *wurth*, *wyrth*, *wierth*, homestead, farm, estate, property. It is allied to A. S. *worthig*, *weorthig*, *wurthig*, *wyrthig*, sometimes found as *worthign*, *worthine*, which has the same meaning. The latter forms have frequently, especially in Salop, hardened into *wardine*, e. g. Shrawardine, Belswardine, Pedwardine, Cheswardine, &c.; and in the SW. have become *worthy*, as in Holsworthy, King's Worthy, &c.

Wren's Nest, Dudley (1 m. NE. of), a lofty limestone hill. This name is apparently modern, but in Dudley and Sedgley records we find frequent mention of a pl. name *Wrosne*; 1275 de la *Wrosne*, S. R.; 13 c. de la *Wrosne*, I. P. M.; atte *Wrosne*. There is also a *Wolfeswrosne* in the Perambulation of Kinver Forest (a. 1300), between Prestwood and Kinver, which I cannot identify. *Wrosene* is also mentioned in the Valor of Pope Nicholas, c. 1288, as belonging to the Prior of Dudley (the Wren's Nest adjoins the Priory) and worth 20*s*. a year, being one carucate. The possessions of the Priory were granted on the dissolution to Sir John Dudley, from whom they have descended to Lord Dudley, the present owner of the Priory and Wren's Nest. I feel assured, violent as the corruption may seem, that Wren's Nest represents *Wrosne*. As to the meaning, Professor Skeat writes:—'M. E. *o* = A. S. *ā*; *Wrosne* = A. S. *wrāsne*, short for *Wrāsene*, dat. of *wrāsen*, a tie, fetter, knot. We may take it

as a "knot," since that word is not unusual in pl. names. It means a hill with a hump on it. A. S. *wrāsn, wrāsen*, is a regular derivative of *wrīthan*, to writhe, to *twist tight*.' The Wren's Nest is 'a hill with a hump on it'; it is uplifted limestone, folded and twisted in a remarkable manner. In the NW. 'knot' is frequently applied to hills, e. g. Arnside Knot, Bolland Knot, Hard Knot, &c.

Wribbenhall, near Bewdley. 11 c. *Wrbenhala*, Hem. Thorpe; D. *Gurbehale* (berewick of Kidderminster); 1230 *Wrbehale*; 1240 *Wrubenhale*; 14 c. *Wrubbenhall*. The D. *Gu-* represents *W*. The Normans made scanty use of *W*, and expressed its sound by *Gu-*, e. g. Gulielmus for Willelmus, Gualterus for Walter, &c. The prefix, I think, is the A. S. p. n. *Wrobba*, unrecorded, but found in C. D. 1094, a. 910, in *thonon sūth on wrobban lea æfisc*—'then south on the edge of Wrobba's lea.' In gen. form *Wrobba* becomes *Wrobban*, hence the *n* in Wribbenhall, which I translate Wrobba's hall, or meadow land; *v.* Hale. It would seem that Wribbenhall is more ancient than Bewdley, from which it is only divided by Severn.

Wychall Farm (moated), in Northfield. I think this must be rightly Wythall. It is an ancient place, and there is no record of any Wychall in Northfield, or elsewhere; but Richard *de la Withalle* is recorded in the S. R. of 1275, under Northfield. In mediaeval writing *c* and *t* were frequently interchanged, being much alike. *V.* Withall.

Wynyards (The), in Ombersley; **Wynyate Farm,** in Ipsley. A. S. *wīn-geard* (*g* = *y*), a vineyard. There appears to have been a *Wynyard* in or near Malvern in 1275, as it is mentioned three times in the S. R. of that year. There was also a *Wingard* in Baldenhall, and a *Wyngard* in Powick. The terminal *-yate* is probably a corrupt form of 'yard,' as 'Vine-gate' would be unlikely. Compton Wynyates in Warwickshire should be Compton Wyngard; there is ground near the Hall there still called the Vineyard.

Wyre Forest. There is scanty mention of Wyre Forest in Worcestershire records, because it belonged to the Crown; its history has yet to be written. It appears always to have been 'Wyre,' and, being on the W. side of Severn, I should have little doubt it is Welsh *wyre*, a spread, an expanse, in allusion to its size; it is said to have once extended over the east side of Severn. *Wyre Fawr*, Great Spread, *Wyre Fach*, Little Spread, are rivers in Cardiganshire. Cp. the Wyre river in Lancashire.

Wyre Piddle, *v.* Piddle (Wyre).

Yardley, 4 m. E. of Birmingham. 972 *Gyrdleahe*, C. S. 1281; D. *Gerlei*; 1275 *Jerdeleye*, S. R.; 13 and 14 c. *Yerdeley*. All the forms are plain variants of an A. S. *geard-leah*. *Geard* ($g = y$) has a wide meaning, an enclosed place, yard, court, house, a district. For the terminal *v.* Ley.

Yarhampton, h., in Astley. I suspect this is a *Sardhamton* (now apparently obsolete) which is twice recorded in the S. R. of 1275, sub Astley. The terminal only is clear; *v.* Hampton, and Sar House.

Yarringtons, h., in Alfrick. No forms. Probably gave name to the family of Andrew Yarranton, the author of 'England's Improvement by Sea and Land,' &c. He was born at Larford, in Astley, in 1616.

Yielding Tree, h., in Broom. 13 c. Stephan de *Gildintre*, Lyt. Ch.; 1275 *Gyldintre*. The forms are late, but I think the *in* represents an A. S. *an*, giving an original *Gildantre*, Gilda's tree. It may seem strange that *Gildan* should become 'yielding,' but it is according to rule. In M. E. *g* before *e* and *i* changed to *y*; 'to yield' in A. S. was *gieldan*, our 'year' was *gear*, 'yellow,' *gealu*, 'yolk,' *geolca*, 'ye,' *ge*, and so on. Queen Elizabeth wrote *yeven* for 'given.' Much of this has been altered in modern English.

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